



NAPLES by Jan Fuscoe

Jan is the editor of *Time Out Naples, Capri, Sorrento & the Amalfi Coast*

The morning mooch: Seafront Chiaia is where you'll find stylish interior-design shops – check out fancy fabrics at Marra (Via Carlo Poerio 46) – as well as craftsmen repairing church icons or 18th-century chairs, and a street market.

The 'all-day' brunch: Trip (Via Martucci 64; www.cra.na.it; brunch £21pp, Sat 1-6pm; book ahead) is a cafe/bar with regular events. Saturday is Brunch Day, when you can try chef Gomasio's apple-and-brie quiche, often to live jazz.

The amazing artwork: See Caravaggio's masterpiece *The Seven Acts of Mercy* in the church of Pio Monte della Misericordia (Via dei Tribulani; www.piomontedellamisericordia.it; £3). The convicted murderer had fled to Naples from Rome and was paid handsomely by the founders of Pio Monte for his work.

The little-known site: The 13th-century church of San Lorenzo Maggiore (Via dei Tribulani 316; www.sanlorenzomaggiorenepoli.it; £3) – where Boccaccio fell in love with the woman he immortalised as Fiammetta in his *Decameron* novellas – has been restored. In the crypt, see the remains of the town of Neapolis, with streets and shops that look as they would have done 2,000 years ago.

The dress-up dinner: Il Comandante is the classy restaurant in the five-star waterfront Romeo Hotel (Via Cristoforo Colombo 45; 00 39 081 017 5001, www.romeohotel.it; tasting menu from £77), where chef Andrea Aprea is up for

Bay watch: above, view of Naples's seaside district of Chiaia, from Corso Vittorio Emanuele

a Michelin star this year. It's currently on the ground floor but by the end of the year it will move back to the 10th-floor terrace with its swoon-inducing Vesuvius vistas.

The best view: Take the funicular up to the Vomero district for volcano panoramas. At the Certosa-Museo di San Martino (Largo San Martino 5; £5), you'll find lovely paintings and sculptures, and the gardens are a great place to look out over the Bay of Naples and Vesuvius.

The palm-size treat: Late-night crowds gather in little Piazza Santa Maria La Nova at the tiny, stylish DJ bar Aret'a Palm (meaning 'behind the palm tree'). At quiet moments, owner Alan Wurzburger strums a few tunes on his guitar.

The superior sleep: Right on the waterfront, the grand Hotel Excelsior (00 39 081 764 0111, www.starwoodhotels.com; doubles from £127, B&B) has been welcoming princes, politicians and famous actors for centuries. Rooms are filled with antiques, and there's a rooftop restaurant and a stylish bar with Vesuvius views.

act local

Fergal Kavanagh has lived in Naples for 15 years and has created a method of learning English through pop music (www.tuneintoenglish.com).

'Ordering coffee is an art. Be sure to say *amaro* if you

don't take sugar, and keep a lovely tradition alive with the *caffè pagato*: you pay for two coffees instead of one, and some unfortunate sort will pass by sooner or later to ask if there is a coffee or them. Leave a 10 per cent tip at the bar.'