Introduction & Welcome

- My goal is to provide context and perspective of role Naples played in European history and aid your understanding and appreciation of Naples
Timeline of Naples – Many bad times

- 500 BC: Greeks founded
- 79: Mt. Vesuvius buries Pompeii and Herculaneum
- 1250: Plague
- 1282-1816: Kingdom of Naples
- 1504: France cedes to Aragon
- 1564: Death for kissing in public
- 1650: 2nd to Paris in size
- 1656: Plague killed half
- 1762: Britain declares war on Spain and Naples
- 1906: Mount Vesuvius devastates again
- 1861: Italian unification & decline
- 1945: Most bombed Italian city

Timeline of Naples

- 500 BC: Greeks founded
- 60 AD: Peter & Paul preach
- 79: Mt. Vesuvius buries Pompeii and Herculaneum
- 536: Byzantine Belisarius (the last Roman) takes Naples and Rome
- 542: Ostrogoths reconquer
- 1224: University of Naples
- 1250: Plague
- 1282-1816: Kingdom of Naples
- 1504: France cedes to Aragon
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- 1650: 2nd to Paris in size
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- 1762: Britain declares war on Spain and Naples
- 1906: Mount Vesuvius devastates again
- 1861: Italian unification
- 1870s: Economic decline
- 1945: Most bombed Italian city
**What’s the story? Shock & Awe**

### Shock
- Eruption of Mt Vesuvius
- Earthquakes
- Changing rulers: Greeks, Romans, Spanish, Sicilians, French, Austrians, Germans ...
- Blood reliquidifican
- Erotica of Secret Museum
- 1656 plague killed 50%

### Awe
- Island paradise of Capri
- Herculaneum – Roman resort
- Amalfi coast
- 1st public university
- Poet Virgil
- Painter Caravaggio
- Pizza
- Actress Sophia Loren
Italy

- Rome fell and Italy splintered into city-states that often conflicted.
- Foreign rule by French and Spanish.
- Late to unification – in 1861, loyalties to provinces.
- Yet highest per capita GDP until early 1800s.
- Fascist Mussolini defeated WW II.
- Grew after WW II to 60 million & 8th largest economy.
- Long-term slump, mounting debt.
- Euro skepticism and fractious politics.
- Now much lower prosperity than rest W. Europe.

- Major nation – population 60 mil. and 8th largest economy.
- Poorer in South, richer in North.
- Weakened by political instability and financial crises threat to EU.
Naples

- Microcosm of European history - traces of art and architecture of several civilizations
- Cultural center of Renaissance humanism 17th-19th c.
- Once Italy’s richest city – 2nd to Paris
- Declined after unity and Rome became capital
- Top archaeological museum - treasures of Pompeii
- Brash, vibrant and colorful – more laid back
- Birthplace of pizza and Sophia Loren
- 3rd largest city – a million people
- Nearby Pompeii, Herculaneum, Mount Vesuvius, Amalfi Coast and Isle of Capri
Naples today

- 2nd largest metro population in Italy – 4 million
- 4th richest city in Italy
- World's 2nd port in passenger flow
- Tourist, agricultural and industrial city

Harbor view of Vesuvius

Galleria Umberto
Rise of Naples

- **500 BC- AD 500**: Neapolis ("new city"), thriving Hellenist even after Romans conquered
- **500- 1500**: Independent, despite many foreign rulers, was Mediterranean commerce center
- **1500-1800: Golden Age**:  
  - In 1502 Spain conquered  
  - Combined wealth made Naples 2nd to Paris  
  - Attract royalty from Europe, artists Caravaggio and Bernini, opera, lavish churches ...
Decline of Naples

- **1656**: Bubonic plague killed half, rest of Europe industrialized, but Naples remaining feudal and agricultural, with church owning much of the land, and polarized between rich foreign elites and homegrown poor
- **1806**: Napoleon conquered, and monarchy still had rich elite but left behind by industrialized and democratic Europe
- **1861**: Forcefully unified, wealth confiscated and taken to capital in Rome, and began a century of decline with 4 million southern Italians emigrating to north and US
- **1940s**: During WW II suffered Italy’s worst bombings and had little postwar economic recovery
History of Naples is long and varied.

- Initially Greek in 2000 BC
- Roman Republic in the central province of the Empire
- Major cultural center. Virgil is an example of the political and cultural freedom of Naples
- Microcosm of the European history- several civilizations came and went leaving traces also in its art and architecture.
- Naples a primary cultural center Renaissance humanism of 17th-19th centuries
- Advocate for Italian unification
- Landmark built in 282 when capital of Kingdom of Naples was moved from Palermo to Naples.
- Civic Museum inside houses artworks from Neapolitans'

8 foreign rulers statutes at Royal Palace

1. **Roger II** (1095-1154): King of Sicily
2. **Frederick II** (1194–1250): Holy Roman Emperor
3. **Charles I** (1226–85): King of Sicily, Count of Anjou and Provence, King of Albania and Jerusalem
4. **Alfonse of Aragon** (1396–1458): King of Aragon, Valencia, Majorca, Sardinia, Corsica, Sicily, and Count of Barcelona
5. **Charles V** (1500–58): Ruler of Holy Roman & Spanish Empires
6. **Charles III of Spain** (1716-1788): King of Spain
7. **Joachim Murat** (1767–1815): French brother-in-law of Napoleon
8. **Victor Emanuel II** (1820–78): King of Savoy, 1st king of united Italy

**Rulers of Naples since 12th century, Royal Palace statutes**

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- **Charles III of Spain** (1716-1788): King of Spain and Spanish Indies, Duke of Parma and Piacenza in northern Italy
- **Joachim Murat** (1767–1815): Grand Admiral of France, Grand Duke of Berg, brother-in-law of Napoleon, the “Dandy King”
- **Victor Emanuel II** (1820–78): King of Savoy, 1st king of united Italy

http://en.wikipedia.org, various pages
Naples - the “New City”: Greek birth, Roman acquisition

- Founded by Greeks in 6th century BC
- One of oldest and foremost cities in transmitting Greek culture to the Romans
- Many civilizations left their traces in art and architecture
- Grew thanks to merger with powerful Greek city state Siracusa in Sicily
- Strong walls stopped Hannibal during Punic Wars
- Respected by the Romans for Hellenistic culture, elegant villas, theater etc.
University of Naples (1224): World's oldest **state chartered** university

- 1st to train public administrators, lawyers & judges
- Not theologians & philosophers like private universities

Academic leader: World's oldest **state-chartered** university

- University of Naples Federico II - Founded in 1224, one of oldest
- Founding precedents
  - Train public administrators, lawyers and judges
  - Not theologians and philosophers like the private universities
  - Prevent brain drain to University of Bologna - a hostile rival
- 10,000 students today
History of Naples

- Tied to the history of Europe
- Reflects intrigue, turmoil and bloody relations of ruling dynasties and governments
- France, Britain, Austria, and Spain are all reflected in story of Naples
- By mid 15th century - Italy was divided between five great powers: Milan, Florence, Venice, the papacy and Alfonzo
- These five powers eventually agreed to cooperate in order to ward off the Turks
- Alfonse of Aragon, saw self as King Redeemer and warrior for Christ and decorated Naples with magnificent sculptures
Changing Map of Europe & rule of Naples

- Hapsburg Spain & Ottomans ruled Mediterranean for centuries, until Napoleonic French Empire ousted Spanish
Coast south of Naples to Amalfi - once more important than Rome

Italian Coast from Naples to Amalfi

- Gulf of Naples is roughly 9 wide gulf along south of Naples
- Islands of Capri, Ischia and Procida in Gulf
- Area is a tourist destination for Pompeii and Herculaneum
- It is said that Roman emperor Caligula built a bridge of boats across the bay and rode across it in a chariot wearing the armor of Alexander the Great
- 20 nuclear torpedo sea mines were alleged laid in 1970 Soviet Union during Cold War to destroy or deny access to US Sixth Fleet. Be careful wading, the mines are believed to still be on the seabed
Spectacular Capri & Amalfi Vistas

- Isle of Capri
  - Retreat for rich since Roman Empire
  - Charming town with spectacular views
  - Population now of 13,000 and 4 mi. sq.
- Amalfi Coast
  - Thrilling drive along Cliff-hanging houses and roads
Amalfi Cathedral
- 9th-century Catholic Cathedral dedicated to Apostle Saint Andrew
- Arab-Norman Romanesque architectural style
- Cathedral reflects the influence of Arab invaders in 917
- Remodeled several times, adding Romanesque, Byzantine, Gothic, and Baroque elements
- Remains of St. Andrew were reportedly brought to Amalfi from Constantinople in 1206 during the Fourth Crusade
Awesome & Surprising Amalfi - Mystery of Mediterranean History

- Why small, hillside community became Maritime Republic rivaling Naples, Pisa, Venice & Genoa
- Famous for schools of law and mathematics, introducing mariner's compass, catering to visitors

Spectacular & Surprising Amalfi - Great Mystery of Mediterranean History

- Puzzling rise of medieval Amalfi. - little town, clinging to its cliff face, without easy access to Italian hinterland, dominated eastern Mediterranean shipping lanes for 200 years.
- Its cargoes included silk and wrought bronze from Byzantium, pepper and gold from Egypt
- Once Maritime Republic rivaling Pisa, Venice and Genoa
- Amalfi rose 850 to 1100 and surpassed Naples as center of international trade
- 12th-century - captured by Normans and sacked by Pisans and never recovered after 1343 tsunami destroyed
- Naples viewed by Ferdinand as a stepping-stone for a crusade to defeat the Turks and the recovery of Jerusalem
- Long important tourist destination
- Famous in medieval for schools of law and mathematics. And introducing mariner's compass, catering to visitors
Earthquake damaged then Vesuvius destroyed Pompeii

- In 62, severe earthquake on the day set for sacrifices and feasting to honor guardian spirits
- Chaos, fires, anarchy, theft and starvation ensued
- Between 62 and eruption in 79, some rebuilding was done, but many people left the city
- In 79, destroyed by Vesuvius day after festival of Roman god of fire
- Buried for 1700 years before its accidental rediscovery in 1749
  - (How many incredible sites have been accidentally discovered? Two of my favorites are Lasco caves in France and Terra Cotta Warriors in China. In China, you can even greet the old famer who discovered the Warriors while digging a well)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pompeii
Pompeii – pleasure-seeking city buried by Vesuvius, not rediscovered for 1700 years

Advanced Roman city: how rich lived 2,000 years ago with amphitheater, swimming pool, public baths, hotel ...
Shocking, brimming with bars, brothels and erotica
Buried to punish for its wickedness?

Pompeii – pleasure-seeking place buried by Vesuvius and rediscovered 1800 years later

- Lively city of 20,000
- Advanced: sophisticated layout, water and drainage system, and large decorated homes
- Shows how rich lived 2000 years ago - amphitheater, swimming pool, public baths, hotel ...
- Shocking, pleasure-seeking city brimming with bars, brothels and erotica
- Was eruption of Vesuvius sent from heaven to punish Pompeii for its wickedness?
- Culture was distinctly erotic –many erotic frescoes removed and kept until recently in a secret collection at the University of Naples.
- Streets straight and laid out in a grid, in Roman traditional fashion
- Besides the forum, includes food market, mill, bar, restaurants, amphitheater, two theatres, gymnasium and hotel
Herculaneum seaside resort also destroyed by Vesuvius in 79 AD

- But evacuated before being buried 60 feet deep
- Lay hidden for 1700 years until accidentally discovered by workers digging a well in 1709
- Smaller and wealthier town, was effectively evacuated
- Buried under 60 feet of mud and ash.
- Excavated ruins provide a view of Roman life and artifacts of 2000 years ago

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herculaneum
Naughty Pompeii Frescos and Secret Museum

- Romans viewed sexual materials more tolerantly than in 1900s
- When uncovered, raised conflicting views of history

Pompeii had many erotic frescoes, sexually explicit symbols, inscriptions...

Items deemed pornography were locked away in a Secret Museum in 1819

Excavation of Pompeii created a range of powerful and often conflicting views of history

Ancient Romans viewed explicit sexual material differently from most present-day cultures.

Secret museum has been re-opened, closed, re-opened again for 100 years, before being finally re-opened in 2000 and been kept in a separate room

Naples National Archaeological Museum

• Large collection from Pompeii and Herculaneum
• Works of Greek, Roman and Renaissance times
• Most important Italian archaeological museum
Planned to honor Napoleon but converted to church & named for 1860 Italian unity plebiscite

Piazza del Plebiscito

- In early 19th century, King of Naples, Murat (Napoleon's brother-in-law), planned as a tribute to the emperor.
- But after Napoleon was defeated, Ferdinand I converted into the church reminiscent of Pantheon in Rome.
- Named after plebiscite in 1860 that brought Naples into unified Italy
- Square has been used for open-air concerts by international stars Elton John and Bruce Springsteen
San Carlo Opera Theatre – Symbol of Naples’ musical fame

- Symbol of Naples’ musical fame
- World Heritage Site
- Built in 1737 and rebuilt after fire in 1816
- Six levels of boxes and enormous stage with backdrop of gardens of the Palazzo Reale
Naples nadir: Deadly smoke in 1943 & 1944

- 1943 Naples post office bombing following looting by Nazi known as the "Four days of Naples"
- Killed over 100 people resulting time bombs planted by six days before Nazi exit and allied entry
Mt Vesuvius - Since 79 AD, 36 Eruptions
After 1036, no major ones until 1631 eruption that killed 3,000
Eruption in 1906 killed more than 100, devastating Naples
Funds were diverted to the reconstruction of Naples, requiring a new location for the Olympics to be found.
Last major eruption - March 1944, killing 27. Only volcano in Europe to erupt in last 100 years.
Now, plan for 2 weeks advance notice, evacuate 600,000 and relocate for several months
Summary - Naples

- One of world’s oldest cities
- Suffered from Vesuvius eruptions and dynastic incursions
- Important Kingdom – peaked 1650
- Distinct culture - more fun-loving, easy-going than Florence or Rome
- Scenic setting of Amalfi and Capri tourist meccas nearby