

# Italy - The Sorrento Peninsula

Naturetrek Tour Report

9 - 16 April 2008

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Capri



*Lithodora rosmarinifolia*



*Orchis italica*

Report and photos compiled by Mark Galliot



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## Day 1

Wednesday 9th April

Sunny periods, warm

After meeting up at Gatwick with Mark our tour leader, we duly embarked on the mid morning flight to Naples. The weather over Europe was very cloudy enabling us only partial views of the snow covered Alps and the Italian Apennines as we neared our destination. After picking up the minibus at the hire car compound we left the airport, making our way towards the Sorrento Peninsula initially via the autostrada that bisects the sea and the imposing bulk of Mount Vesuvius away to our left.

At Castellamare we turned off onto the scenic but busy coastal road, entering the first of three long tunnels that cut through the mountain here, before emerging and admiring the views of the rocky coast overlooking the Bay of Sorrento with Capri rising precipitously in the background. A traffic hold-up gave us the chance to identify some distinctive plants on the adjacent cliff face including Scorpion Senna-*Coronilla emerus*, Tree Spurge-*Euphorbia dendroides*, Prickly Pear-*Opuntia ficus-indica* and the attractive yellow endemic Snapdragon-*Antirrhinum siculum*.

Arriving in Sorrento we settled into our hotel, admiring the lovely views over the bay to the island of Ischia in the distance. We sampled the first of the many good meals that we were to enjoy during our stay here, before having a meeting to discuss the itinerary for the week, and then for most people it was an early night.

## Day 2

Thursday 10th April

Sunny periods, windy, showers later

The day dawned fine but windy, so after breakfast we started our week's exploration by driving the short distance up into the hills behind Sorrento, to park the minibus at Termini, and then walk down an easy track to the old lighthouse at Punta Campanella.

The Mediterranean flora was very much in evidence here in all its spring glory, with a bewildering array of species that Mark identified for us as we gradually descended through Olive groves, woodland, and then into more open "Garrigue" nearer the lighthouse. The lovely shocking blue of the endemic Gromwell-*Lithodora rosmarifolia* was eagerly photographed as it carpeted a limestone rock face, while the first orchids found were the very attractive Naked Man Orchid-*Orchis italica*.

Leguminous plants were particularly numerous with Starry Clover-*Trifolium stellatum*, Southern Bird's-foot Trefoil-*Lotus creticus*, Jupiter's Beard-*Anthyllis barba-jovis*, Bladder Vetch-*A. tetraphylla*, the attractive purple and red *Lathyrus chymenum* and the exquisite dark red Winged Pea-*Tetragonolobus purpureus* all noted. The usual migrant birds were conspicuous by their absence, but a singing Nightingale, a Marsh Harrier, and amazingly an Osprey fishing over the sea were appreciated. Resident species included Sardinian & Fan-tailed Warbler, Serin, and a dashing Peregrine Falcon.

After enjoying our picnic lunch at the old lighthouse, we then ascended a steep rocky path that climbs up over the cliff and eventually back down into Termini. Gaining altitude, a lovely vista gradually unfolded in front of us, with lovely views of the beautiful villages that cling to the cliff side of the famous Amalfi coastline stretching away to the south. Here there were more orchids including numerous Pink Butterfly-*Orchis papilionacea* and Tongue Orchid-*Serapias lingua*, while there were sheets of Asphodel-*Asphodelus aestivus* and many blooms of the lovely blue Narrow-leaved Lupin-*Lupinus angustifolius*. The beautifully marked green/blue Italian Wall Lizards, that we were to see all week, were here particularly accommodating allowing close inspection, as did also a beautiful newly emerged Swallowtail butterfly.

We eventually reached a large allotment area overlooking the village, which is normally a good spot for migrant birds to rest up after coming ashore. We were not to be disappointed with Pied Flycatchers, Wood Warblers, Common Redstarts, and two Wrynecks all giving good views. This was also a good place for plants with numerous delicate blooms of *Anemone hortensis* & *pavonina*, Provence Orchid-*Orchis provincialis*, and a small tree of Mediterranean Wild Pear-*Pyrus amygdaliformis* which was covered in profuse white blossom.

## Day 3

Friday 11th April

### Sunny and warm, misty and cooler later

This morning we started by driving around the back of Sorrento over the hills in an attempt to miss the "rush hour" traffic that afflicts this area, before turning inland along narrow roads and through small villages, gradually climbing up to Monte Faito our destination for the day. This is one of the summits which dominate the Latteri mountain range and at over 1,200 metres high gave us stunning views as we climbed firstly through open rocky grassland and then Black & Mountain Pine and Beech woodland. At one point we paused in a lay-by for a photo stop enabling us to see all across the bay to Vesuvius and Naples itself, while in the other direction Sorrento and Capri were shimmering in the morning sunshine.

As a result of its altitude Mt Faito has a very different feel to it than the previous days walk having a flora more akin to Northern Europe with the welcome addition of some rare montane species. These included the very attractive endemic Violet-*Viola eugineae*, carpets of delicate blue *Anemone appenina* (also the occasional white plant), Alpine Rock Cress-*Arabis alpina*, Alpine Squill-*Scilla bifolia*, Round-leaved Saxifrage-*Saxifraga rotundifolia*, and many lovely blooms of Spring Crocus-*Crocus vernus*. Birds were in good numbers here with Coal, Marsh & Blue Tits, Pied Flycatcher, Wood Warbler, and Whinchat all showing well, whilst a beautiful little Firecrest decided to search for insects amongst some dead wood next to the path right next to us giving exquisite views.

We took our picnic lunch amongst some rocks near the St Michele chapel with wonderful views over Pompeii and the brooding Vesuvius in the background, where Mark was then able to catch and show us the colourful but dainty Southern Festoon butterfly, before releasing it unharmed.

Reaching the chapel, we turned around and then made our way back along the ridge the way that we had come, noting some more good plants including Spring Rock-cress-*Arabis verna*, Alpine Corn Gromwell-*Bugglosoides arvensis* ssp *sibthorpiana*, Hutchinsia-*Hornungia petraea*, and many plants of Stinking Hellebore-*Helleborus foetidus*. At one point a flock of mixed Alpine and Common Swifts filled the sky, while some of the group had a good view of a female Red-backed Shrike. After a welcome coffee or hot chocolate at the café next to the cable car station, we then continued slowly back to the hotel, enjoying another lovely dinner, before hearing Tawny, Little and a distant Scops Owl calling.

## Day 4

Saturday 12th April

Heavy rain am, sunny periods pm, cool

Today it was back up into the hills behind the hotel through Termini and then down the other side near the sea, parking at the small village of Nerano. From here we were to take a lovely path which skirts the side of a cliff before descending through olive groves to an old quarry on the coast at Ieranto. The latter area is now protected as a countryside museum with signs explaining both the techniques of rustic olive cultivation and the methods used to extract the limestone.

As we left the hotel though it started to rain, gradually becoming heavier as we neared the village. While parking the minibus there were signs of an improvement, so we decided to carry on with the itinerary, taking the path towards the sea immediately noting many colourful plants including Wild Gladiolus-*Gladiolus italicus*, Hoary Stock-*Matthiola incana*, Silvery Convolvulus-*Convolvulus cneorum*, Hairy Yellow Vetch-*Vicia hybrida*, Shrubby Germander-*Teucrium fruticans* and the little fern-*Cheilanthes pteridioides*. At one spot a Blue Rock Thrush was singing well below us, but by now the rain was much heavier again and the rocks beneath our feet were becoming dangerously slippery, so reluctantly it was decided to turn around and return to the bus.

We had intended to go back to the hotel and change into dry clothes, but upon reaching the car park the rain stopped and the sun gradually tried to come out, so Mark suggested we have lunch at a spot overlooking the little beach resort of Marina di Cantone, where if the weather continued to improve we could walk along the coast towards Reconnone in the afternoon. Thankfully this was the case and we were able to see a good selection of plants here including Rock & Spiny Sainfoin-*Onobrychis saxatilis* & *Hedysarum spinosissimum*, Common Myrtle-*Myrtus communis*, Pitch Trefoil-*Psoralea bituminosa*, the Carob Tree-*Ceratonia siliqua* and the pink Milk-vetch-*Astragalus echinatus*.

Birds seen were Blue Rock Thrush, Raven, Peregrine, Orphean, Fan-tailed & Garden Warbler, Cirl Bunting and amazingly a dozen Night Herons. The latter which were obviously on migration to their usual marsh nesting grounds, were disturbed from their daytime roost amongst the olive groves by Mark and another member of the group after they had decided that they needed a comfort stop!

Returning to the minibus we had good views of the strange little Moorish Gecko at the entrance of its hole in a wall, before we once again drove up to the allotment area above Termini. The mist was starting to close in now, so we just had time to find some Man Orchids-*Aceras anthropoporum*, amongst the many spikes of Provence Orchid, before heading back to the hotel.

## Day 5

Sunday 13th April

### Sunny, cold wind, mist on Vesuvius

There was no repeat this morning of yesterday's rain, so after breakfast we were soon heading north for a morning visit to the extensive ruins of the roman city of Pompeii, situated ominously beneath the brooding Mount Vesuvius which had destroyed it after erupting in the year 79 AD. After parking the bus in a restaurant car park, we then made our way to the entrance where English language maps and guides were obtained for our visit. While most members of the group thoroughly enjoyed the archaeological sights, two others decided to head for the fringes of the site where gardens and grassy areas usually hold a good number of birds. New species for the week were Tree Pipit, Great-spotted Woodpecker, Magpie, Dunnock, and at least two Hoopoe, while at last a few butterflies were on the wing, including both Scarce and Common Swallowtail, Clouded Yellow, Painted Lady and Wall Brown.

After a splendid pizza lunch, we then took the autostrada towards Naples and after a short distance turned off onto the road into the Vesuvius National Park and the steep winding ascent that goes almost to the top. We initially stopped in a lay-by next to an area of colonised lava where there were many lovely blooms of both Pink Butterfly and Green-winged Orchid-*Orchis morio*, along with Fodder Vetch-*Vicia villosa*, a stunning deep blue Gromwell-*Anchusa undulata ssp hybrida*, and more Narrow-leaved Lupin.

Reaching the summit car park, we then walked up the steep path to peer into the sinister looking crater where at one or two spots some steam was lazily drifting up into the atmosphere. Nearing the top a thick mist started to envelope us, eventually obscuring much of the view, although we could still see the lava flow below us from the last eruption in 1944, which even now has been barely colonised by plants. The pioneer species is the endemic lichen-*Stereocaulon vesuvianum*, which gradually over time will help break the rock down so that some vascular plants can grab a foothold. These include the endemic Mt Etna Broom-*Genista aetnensis* and abundant French Sorrel-*Rumex scutatus*, the former growing very tall, although not yet in flower for us. Another bonus was the presence of another Blue Rock Thrush and a Peregrine Falcon passing food to its mate, which then returned to the nesting site on the cliff inside of the crater, obviously an ideal place to bring up a family!

## Day 6

Monday 14th April

### Sunny, but a strong cool wind

We awoke to a sunny but windy day, so left the hotel to drive into Sorrento, parking the minibus at the port, where we were to catch the boat over to the beautiful island of Capri. After purchasing the tickets, we quickly boarded and in no time were enjoying the short ride across to the island the only birds noted being the ubiquitous Yellow-legged Gulls.

On Capri we then all acquired a joint travel ticket, before literally cramming into the funicular railway up the hill to the bus station where we then transferred to one of the little buses that connect Capri town with Anacapri, the other main town here. The road is built into the side of the cliff with a dizzying drop below and as we climbed higher a wonderful vista unfolded of the bay stretching away below with the Sorrento Peninsula behind it in the distance.

At our destination we changed yet again onto the fourth mode of transport during the day, by taking the chairlift to the top of Monte Solaro, at 587 metres the highest point of the island. After an initial apprehension by some members of the group, everyone remarked how wonderful it was to inspect the masses of colourful wild flowers from above, with the Naked Man and Pink Butterfly Orchids being particularly abundant and at the same time enjoy the extensive views.

At the top we then made our way gradually down through pine woodland and scrub to an old observatory overlooking the bay far below, a superb spot to eat our picnic lunch. The cold unprecedented westerly winds though were obviously having an effect on bird numbers with only Sub-alpine and Sardinian Warbler, Northern Wheatear and Pied Flycatcher being noted, whereas normally the trees and vegetation here are full of migrants resting up after their sea crossing.

Thankfully though there was still a good show of flowering plants with Mediterranean *Bartsia-Parentucellia latifolia*, Star of Bethlehem-*Ornithogalum umbellatum*, Wild Cabbage-*Brassica oleracea ssp robertiana*, Jersey Buttercup-*Ranunculus paludosus*, Shepherd's Needle-*Scandix pecten-veneris*, Fringed Rue-*Ruta chalepensis*, Spiny Spurge-*Euphorbia spinosa* and another large clump of the beautiful Rosemary-leaved Gromwell.

Continuing back down into Anacapri we had superb views of a pair of Peregrines displaying to each other, while some of the group had some excitement when a Western Whip Snake shot away from almost beneath their feet! We then once again squeezed ourselves on to the bus and back down to the port and the boat back to Sorrento, where two members stayed in the town, while the rest of us drove back to the hotel.

As we had returned earlier than expected, we decided to walk down to the roman remains of Villa di Pollio at the headland of Punta del Capo. This was a very pleasant walk with good views across the bay to Sorrento, and a good place to find some new plants including Maidenhair Fern- *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, the elegant Hare's-tail Grass-*Lagarus ovatus*, and the two Curry Plants-*Helichrysum stoechas* & *H. italicum*.

## Day 7

Tuesday 15th April

Sunny periods, heavy blustery showers, cold

We left after breakfast and immediately had to drive through a thunder storm with heavy rain and hail, before it cleared as we took the very scenic Amalfi coastal road to the lovely little town of Positano, enjoying the dramatic views of the mountains tumbling down to the sea in sheer cliffs, with the road clinging to their sides. Mark dropped the group off at the start of our walk, before parking the mini-bus further along the road and returning to rejoin us as we started to ascend a steep but very well made path that initially climbs up through extensive woodland.

Immediately, we started noting many lovely plants, with the ground being literally carpeted with a superb show of the delicate red *Cyclamen repandum* along with the blue *Anemone appeninum* that we had already seen on Mt Faito. Orchids were also very numerous with new species added to our list including a lovely deep violet Green-winged Orchid-*Orchis morio*, Sword-leaved Helleborine-*Cephalanthera longifolia*, Man Orchid-*Aceras anthropoporum*, and lovely robust specimens of Early Spider Orchid-*Ophrys araneola*, and the endemic Sicilian Spider Orchid-*Ophrys exaltata*.

We eventually emerged into more open habitat towards the top of the massif near the hilltop village of Santa Maria del Castella, just as the heavens opened again. Thankfully the shower did not last long, enabling us to appreciate some more interesting plants the most noticeable being the blue of two Gromwells, Purple-*Buglossoides purpureocaerulea* and a Mediterranean species-*Anchusa cretica*, a deep red Campion-*Silene sericea*, and the strange Birthwort-*Aristolochia pallida*, the food plant of the Southern Festoon butterfly which we had seen earlier in the week. At the village itself we at last managed to see a few bird species amongst the small cultivated fields with Whinchat, Northern Wheatear, Raven, Swift, and a single Black-eared Wheatear.

We ate our lunch on a rock outcrop, once again dodging the showers, before descending by the famous and spectacular old zigzag roman packhorse way back down into Positano. We noticed that the vegetation was now recovering well from the fire in the summer of 2004, nice plants here being Small Tongue Orchid-*Serapias parviflora*, masses of Provence Orchid, Nice Milkwort-*Polygala nicaensis*, Swallow-wort-*Vincetoxicum hirundinaria*, the first flowers of both the pink and white Cistus's-*C. creticus* & *C. salvifolius*, and towards the bottom many plants of the endemic Round-leaved Mullein-*Verbascum rotundifolium ssp rotundifolium*. Birds seen were Hoopoe, Orphean Warbler, while both Sub-alpine and Sardinian Warbler and a Blue Rock Thrush were singing.

Finally arriving in the town we then made the obligatory visit to the "Bar International" where we took some welcome refreshment, before Mark retrieved the bus for the journey back to the hotel. Here a little later, the strong westerly winds suddenly changed around to blow from the south and almost immediately 100's of Swallows started flying through, with Stock Dove and one member was also lucky enough to observe a party of Bee-eaters.

## Day 8

Wednesday 16th April

### Sunny and warm

We had breakfast, bade farewell to our hosts, and then set off nice and early for Naples where we were to catch our flight back to Gatwick. The autostrada was very busy this morning, with tail backs at a few spots, but we eventually reached the airport in plenty of time, even though a missed turning resulted in us having to negotiate the centre of Naples before reaching our goal! Before saying our goodbyes and going our separate ways, we all agreed it had been a very successful and enjoyable week with many plant, bird, butterfly, and cultural highlights, and this despite the unusually cool windy and occasionally wet conditions.

## Species Lists

### Plants

Scientific name	Common name	Day first seen
<b>LICHENS</b>		
<i>Stereocaulon vesuvianum</i>	Mount Vesuvius Lichen	5
<b>FERNS</b>		
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	2
<i>Athyrium felix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	7
<i>Dryopteris felix-mas</i>	Common Male Fern	3
<i>D. submontana</i>	Rigid Buckler Fern	2
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue Fern	3
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	7
<i>A. adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	6
<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rustyback Fern	2
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	6
<i>Anagramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern	2
<i>Salaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss	2
<i>Cheilanthes pteridiodes</i>	Scented Cheilanthus	4
<b>CONIFERS</b>		
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime Pine	2
<i>P. nigra</i>	Black Pine	3
<i>P. pinea</i>	Umbrella or Stone Pine	1
<i>P. halepensis</i>	Alleppo Pine	2
<i>P. uncinata</i>	Mountain Pine	3
<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>	Phoenician Juniper	2
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew	3
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Italian Cypress	2
<b>SALICACEAE</b>		
<i>S. caprea</i>	Goat Willow	2
<i>Populus x canadensis</i>	Hybrid Poplar	2
<b>BETULACEAE</b>		
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	5
<i>Alnus incana</i>	Grey Alder	3
<i>A. glutinosa</i>	Alder	6
<b>CORYLACEAE</b>		
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	3
<i>Coryllus avellana</i>	Hazel	2
<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	Hop hornbeam	2
<b>FAGACEAE</b>		
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	3
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	3
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Common Oak	3
<i>Q. pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	2
<i>Q. ilex</i>	Holm Oak	2



Scientific name	Common name	Day first seen
<b>MORACEAE</b>		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Fig	2
<b>SANTALACEAE</b>		
<i>Osyris alba</i>	Osyris	7
<b>ULMACEAE</b>		
<i>U.minor</i>	Small-leaved Elm	2
<b>URTICACEAE</b>		
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	3
<i>Urtica membranacea</i>	Annual Mediterranean Nettle	2
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	2
<i>P. officinalis</i>		2
<i>P. lusitanica</i>		2
<b>ARISTOLOCHIACEAE</b>		
<i>Aristolochia pallida</i>	Birthwort	7
<b>POLYGONACEAE</b>		
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel	3
<i>R. crispus</i>	Curled Dock	3
<i>R. scutatus</i>	Shield or French Dock	5
<b>CHENOPODIACEAE</b>		
<i>Atriplex halimus</i>	Shrubby Orache	2
<b>CARYOPHYLLACEAE</b>		
<i>Cerastium ligusticum</i>	a Mouse-ear Chickweed	5
<i>C. fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	2
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed	2
<i>S. neglecta</i>	Greater Chickweed	3
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Procumbent Pearlwort	2
<i>Silene italica</i>	Italian Catchfly	2
<i>S. latifolia</i>	White Campion	2
<i>S. vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	2
<i>S. gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	2
<i>S. sericea</i>		7
<i>S. dioica</i>	Red Campion	3
<b>RANUNCULACEAE</b>		
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	4
<i>R. acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	3
<i>R. paludosus</i>	Jersey Buttercup	6
<i>R. ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine(leaves)	2
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore	3
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Old Man's Beard	2
<i>Anemone apennina</i>	Blue Wood Anemone	3
<i>A. hortensis</i>		2
<i>A. pavonina</i>		2

Scientific name	Common name	Day first seen
<b>LAURACEAE</b>		
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Bay Tree	2
<b>PAPAVERACEAE</b>		
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	5
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	4
<i>P. dubium</i>	Pale Poppy	2
<b>FUMARIACEAE</b>		
<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>	Ramping Fumitory	2
<i>F. muralis ssp boraei</i>	Wall Fumitory	2
<b>CRUCIFERAE</b>		
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bitter-cress	2
<i>C. residifolia</i>		3
<i>Cardaminopsis arenosa</i>	Rockcress	3
<i>Brassica oleracea ssp robertiana</i>	Wild Cabbage	6
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock	4
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	3
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Common Whitlow-grass	3
<i>C. didymus</i>	Lesser Swine-cress	2
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	7
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse	2
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild Radish	2
<i>Arabis turrita</i>	Tower-cress	2
<i>A. verna</i>	Spring Rock-cress	3
<i>A. alpina</i>	Alpine Rock-cress	3
<i>Hornungia petraea</i>	Hutchinsia	3
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Alyssum	2
<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Hoary Cress	2
<i>Matthiola incana</i>	Wild Stock	2
<i>Hutchinsia alpina</i>	Chamois Cress	5
<b>RESEDACEAE</b>		
<i>Reseda alba</i>	White Mignonette	2
<b>CRASSULACEAE</b>		
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Wall Pennywort	2
<i>U. horizontalis</i>		2
<i>Sedum dasyphyllum (leaves)</i>	Thick-leaved Stonecrop	4
<b>SAXIFRAGACEAE</b>		
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage	3
<i>S. rotundifolia (in bud)</i>	Round-leaved Saxifrage	3
<b>PLATANACEAE</b>		
<i>Platanus x hybrida</i>	London Plane	2
<b>ROSACEAE</b>		
<i>Sanguisorba minus</i>	Salad Burnet	2

Scientific name	Common name	Day first seen
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb Bennet	3
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	Barren Strawberry	3
<i>P. reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	3
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	2
<i>C. laevigata</i>	Midland Hawthorn	4
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	4
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Japanese Loquat	4
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	3
<i>Pyrus amygdaliformis</i>	Mediterranean Wild Pear	4
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry	6
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Common Dog Rose (leaves)	3
<b>LEGUMINOSAE</b>		
<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas Tree	1
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>	Carob or Locust Tree	4
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	False Acacia	4
<i>Psoralea bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	4
<i>Calycotome villosa</i>	Hairy Thorny Broom	7
<i>Genista aetnensis</i>	Mt Etna Broom (not in flower)	5
<i>Lupinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Lupin	2
<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish Broom	2
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Common Broom	2
<i>Coronilla scorpiodes</i>	Annual Scorpion Vetch	2
<i>C. emerus</i>	Scorpion Senna	1
<i>C. valentina</i>		2
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	Sainfoin	7
<i>O. caput-galli</i>	Cockscomb Sainfoin	2
<i>O. saxatilis</i>	Rock Sainfoin	2
<i>O. aquidentata</i>		4
<i>Hedysarum spinosissimum</i>	Spiny Sainfoin	7
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Small Melilot	2
<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	Bithynian Vetch	2
<i>V. sativa ssp nigra</i>	Narrow-leaved Vetch	3
<i>V. sativa ssp sativa</i>	Fodder Vetch	2
<i>V. hybrida</i>	Hairy Yellow Vetch	4
<i>V. villosa</i>	Fodder Vetch	5
<i>V. ochroleuca</i>		2
<i>V. hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare	7
<i>V. sepia</i>	Bush Vetch	2
<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	Spring Pea	7
<i>L. sphaericus</i>		4
<i>L. clymenum</i>		2
<i>L. setifolius</i>		4
<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted Medick	2
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	7
<i>T. scabrum</i>	Rough Clover	2
<i>T. stellatum</i>	Starry Clover	2
<i>Lotus edulis</i>	Edible Lotus	2
<i>L. creticus</i>	Southern Birds-foot Trefoil	2
<i>L. ornithopodiodes</i>		2
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	4

Scientific name	Common name	Day first seen
<i>A. vul ssp praepropera</i>	Mediterranean Kidney Vetch	6
<i>A. tetraphylla</i>	Bladder Vetch	2
<i>A. barba-jovis</i>	Jupiter's Beard	2
<i>A. hermanii</i>		7
<i>Tetragonolobus purpureus</i>	Winged Pea	2
<i>Astragalus echinatus</i>	a Milk Vetch	4
<b>OXALIDACEAE</b>		
<i>Oxalis pres-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	2
<i>O. articulata</i>	Pink Oxalis	2
<b>GERANIACEAE</b>		
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	6
<i>G. purpureum</i>	Little Robin	2
<i>G. lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	3
<i>G. molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	2
<i>G. dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill	2
<i>G. rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill	2
<i>G. columbinum</i>	Long-stalked Crane's-bill	2
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	2
<i>E. cicutarium ssp bipinnatum</i>		3
<i>E. malacoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill	2
<b>LINACEAE</b>		
<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale Flax	2
<b>EUPHORBIACEAE</b>		
<i>Mercurialis annua</i>	Annual Mercury	2
<i>Eeuphorbia dendroides</i>	Tree Spurge	1
<i>E. characias</i>	Large Mediterranean Spurge	2
<i>E. helioscopia</i>	Sun Spurge	2
<i>E. spinosa</i>	Spiny Spurge	6
<i>E. peplus</i>	Petty Spurge	2
<i>E. amygdaloides</i>	Wood Spurge	3
<b>POLYGALACEAE</b>		
<i>Polygala nicaensis</i>	Nice Milkwort	7
<b>ACERACEAE</b>		
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	2
<b>ANACARDIACEAE</b>		
<i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>	Mastic Tree	2
<b>RHAMNACEAE</b>		
<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean Buckthorn	2
<b>TILACEAE</b>		
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved Lime	6
<b>MALVACEAE</b>		

Scientific name	Common name	Day first seen
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	2
<i>M. parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Mallow	2
<i>Lavatera cretica</i>	Small Tree Mallow	2
<i>L. arborea</i>	Tree Mallow	2
<b>THYMELACEAE</b>		
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Spurge Laurel	3
<i>Thymelaea tartonraira ssp argentea</i>		7
<b>RUTACEAE</b>		
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Orange	2
<i>C. limon</i>	Lemon	2
<i>Ruta chalepensis</i>	Fringed Rue	6
<b>VIOLACEAE</b>		
<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Field Pansy	5
<i>V. reichenbachiana</i>	Wood Dog Violet	3
<i>V. eugeniae</i>		3
<i>V. odorata</i>	Sweet Violet	3
<b>CISTACEAE</b>		
<i>Helianthemum nummularium ssp</i>	Common Rockrose ssp	4
<i>Fumana thymifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Fumana	2
<i>Cistus creticus</i>	Pink Cistus	7
<i>C. salvifolius</i>	Sage-leaved Cistus	7
<b>TAMARICACEAE</b>		
<i>Tamarix tetragyna</i>	Tamarisk Tree	4
<b>CACTACEAE</b>		
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Prickly Pear	1
<b>MYRTACEAE</b>		
<i>Myrtus communis</i>	Common Myrtle	4
<b>CORNACEAE</b>		
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	2
<b>ARIALACEAE</b>		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	2
<b>UMBELLIFERAE</b>		
<i>Erngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo (last years seedheads)	2
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's Needle	2
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	6
<i>Ferula communis</i>	Giant Fennel	2
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>	Alexanders	2
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	2
<i>Tordylium apulum</i>	Tordylium	2
<i>Orlaya daucooides</i>	Orlaya	2
<i>Oenanthe globulosa</i>	Mediterranean Water Dropwort	4

Scientific name	Common name	Day first seen
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Rock Samphire	2
<i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i>	Rough Chervil	7
<b>ERICACEAE</b>		
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	2
<b>PRIMULACEAE</b>		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel	2
<i>A. foemina</i>	Blue Pimpernel	2
<i>Cyclamen repandum</i>	Spring Cyclamen	2
<b>OLEACEAE</b>		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	3
<i>F. ornus</i>	Manna Ash	2
<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>		2
<i>P. angustifolia</i>		2
<i>Olea europaea</i>	Olive	2
<b>GENTIANACEAE</b>		
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Common Centaury	2
<b>MENYANTHACEAE</b>		
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Lesser Periwinkle	7
<i>V. major</i>	Greater Periwinkle	2
<b>ASCLEPIADACEAE</b>		
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	7
<b>RUBIACEAE</b>		
<i>Valentia hispida</i>		2
<i>Rubia perigrina</i>	Wild Madder	2
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder	2
<i>Galium mollugo</i>	Hedge Bedstraw	7
<i>G. aparine</i>	Goose-grass, Cleavers	2
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	7
<b>CONVOLVULACEAE</b>		
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Large Bindweed	6
<i>C. cneorum</i>	Silvery Convolvulus	2
<i>C. althaeoides ssp tenuissimus</i>	Mallow-leaved Convolvulus	2
<i>Cuscuta campestris</i>	Field Dodder	2
<b>BORAGINACEAE</b>		
<i>Buglossoides arvensis ssp sibthorpiana</i>	Corn Gromwell	3
<i>B. purpureocaerulea</i>	Purple Gromwell	7
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	7
<i>E. parviflorum</i>	Small-flowered Viper's Bugloss	2
<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	Soft Comfrey	3
<i>Borago officinalis</i>	Borage	2
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not	2
<i>Lithodora rosmarinifolium</i>	Rosemary-leaved Gromwell	2

Scientific name	Common name	Day first seen
<i>Anchusa cretica</i>		7
<i>A. undulata ssp hybrida</i>		5
<b>LABIATAE</b>		
<i>A. reptans</i>	Common Bugle	6
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Deadnettle	7
<i>L. purpureum</i>	Red Deadnettle	2
<i>L. album</i>	White Deadnettle	2
<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	Shrubby Germander	4
<i>T. chamaedrys</i>	Wall Germander (leaves)	6
<i>Prasium majus</i>	Prasium	2
<i>Sideritis romana</i>		2
<i>Micromeria graeca</i>		2
<i>Thymus praecox</i>	Common Thyme	7
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	Rosemary	2
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	2
<b>SOLANACEAE</b>		
<i>Solanum sarrachoides</i>	Green Nightshade	2
<b>SCROPHULARACEAE</b>		
<i>Verbascum sinuatum</i>	a Mullein (leaves only)	2
<i>V. rotundifolium ssp rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Mullein	7
<i>V. thapsus (leaves only)</i>	Common Mullein	3
<i>Scrophularia peregrina</i>	Nettle-leaved Figwort	6
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Common Snapdragon	2
<i>A. siculum</i>	Sicilian Snapdragon	1
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	7
<i>Veronica. chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	2
<i>V. persica</i>	Common Field Speedwell	2
<i>V. cymbalaria</i>	Cymbalaria-leaved Speedwell	2
<i>Digitalis lutea (leaves only)</i>	Small Yellow Foxglove	3
<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Mediterranean Bartsia	4
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Weasel's Snout	2
<b>OROBANCHACEAE</b>		
<i>Orobanche purpurea</i>	Yarrow Broomrape	2
<i>O. sanguinea</i>		4
<b>PLANTAGINACEAE</b>		
<i>P. lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	3
<i>Plantago major</i>	Great Plantain	2
<i>P. afra</i>		2
<i>P. coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain	6
<b>CAPRIFOLIACEAE</b>		
<i>Lonicera etrusca</i>	Honeysuckle	2
<b>VALERIANACEAE</b>		
<i>Valerianella locusta</i>	Common Cornsalad	7
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	2

Scientific name	Common name	Day first seen
<b>COMPOSITAE</b>		
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	3
<i>B. sylvestris</i>	Southern Daisy	2
<i>Helichrysum stoechas</i>	Curry Plant	6
<i>H. italicum</i>		6
<i>Evax pygmaea</i>		2
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Lavender Cotton (leaves)	7
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn Marigold	2
<i>C. coronarium</i>	Crown Daisy	5
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	2
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>		2
<i>Eupatoria cannabinum</i>	Hemp Agrimony	7
<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>	Stink Aster (leaves)	6
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	2
<i>Inula conyza (leaves)</i>	Ploughman's Spikenard	7
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Mexican Fleabane	6
<i>Carduus pycnocephalis</i>	Plymouth Thistle	2
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	3
<i>C. arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	2
<i>C. eriophorum (leaves only)</i>	Woolly Thistle	3
<i>C. acaule (leaves only)</i>	Stemless Thistle	3
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>		2
<i>Centaurea cinerea</i>	an endemic Knapweed	2
<i>C. parlatoris ssp tenorei</i>	an endemic Knapweed	2
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify	2
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	2
<i>Hyoseris scabra</i>		2
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipple-wort	2
<i>Urospermum delechampii</i>	Urospermum	2
<i>Matricaria perforate ssp maritima</i>	Scentless Mayweed	2
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock	7
<i>Astericus maritimus</i>		2
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Prickly Ox-tongue	3
<i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Cardoon	2
<b>LILACEAE</b>		
<i>Asphodelus aestivus</i>	Asphodel	2
<i>Urginea maritima</i>	Sea Squill (leaves only)	2
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Common Star of Bethlehem	6
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel Hyacinth	2
<i>Allium neapolitanum</i>	Neapolitan Garlic	2
<i>A. subhirsutum</i>		2
<i>A. triquetrum</i>	Three-Cornered Garlic	2
<i>A. roseum</i>	Rosy Garlic	2
<i>Crocus verna</i>	Spring Crocus	3
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	7
<i>Smilax aspera</i>	Sarsaparilla Plant	2
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	Prickly Asparagus	2
<i>Scilla bifolia</i>	Alpine Squill	3
<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>	Whorled Solomon's-Seal (leaves)	6



Scientific name	Common name	Day first seen
<b>AGAVACEAE</b>		
<i>Agave americana</i>	Century Plant	2
<b>DIOSCOREACEAE</b>		
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony	7
<b>IRIDACEAE</b>		
<i>Iris albicans</i>		2
<i>Gladiolus italicus</i>	Field Gladiolus	4
<b>ARACEAE</b>		
<i>Arum italicum</i>	Large Cuckoo Pint	2
<i>Arisarum vulgare</i>	Friar's Cowl	7
<b>JUNCACEAE</b>		
<i>Luzula forsterii</i>	Southern Wood-rush	7
<i>L. pilosa</i>	Hairy Woodrush	3
<b>CYPERACEAE</b>		
<i>Carex caryophylla</i>	Spring Sedge	4
<i>C. flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	3
<i>C. humilis</i>	Dwarf sedge	7
<b>POACEAE</b>		
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	2
<i>Festuca vivipara</i>	Viviparous Fescue	3
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	2
<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	Barren Brome	2
<i>Anthoxantum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	3
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	2
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	False Brome	3
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot Grass	2
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	2
<i>Aegilops geniculata</i>		4
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Large Quaking Grass	2
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall Barley	2
<i>Lagurus ovatus</i>	Hare's-tail Grass	6
<i>Avena sterilis</i>	Winter Wild Oat	4
<i>Ampelodesmos mauritanicus</i>	Tall Tufted Grass	2
<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>		2
<b>ORCHIDACEAE</b>		
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine	7
<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man Orchid	4
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsia (leaves)</i>	Common Spotted Orchid	7
<i>Orchis italicus</i>	Naked Man Orchid	2
<i>O. papilionacea</i>	Pink Butterfly Orchid	2
<i>O. provincialis</i>	Provence Orchid	2
<i>O. morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	5
<i>Ophrys exaltata</i>	Sicilian Spider Orchid	7

Scientific name	Common name	Day first seen
<i>O. bombylifera</i>	Bumble Bee Orchid	2
<i>O. sphegodes</i>	Early Spider Orchid	5
<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue Orchid	2
<i>S. vomeracea</i>	Ploughshare Tongue Orchid	6
<i>S. parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Tongue Orchid	7

## Birds

1	Night Heron	a dozen disturbed from roost near Marina del Cantone
2	Sparrowhawk	occasional
3	Buzzard	birds seen most days
4	Osprey	one bird on coast at Termini (on migration)
5	Kestrel	occasional
6	Peregrine	frequent, close views on Capri
7	Yellow-legged Gull	very common
8	Rock Dove/feral Pigeon	common
9	Turtle Dove	common
10	Collared Dove	common
11	Stock Dove	a few birds seen from the hotel (migration?)
12	Cuckoo	one bird heard on Mt Faito
13	Scops Owl	heard at a distance from the hotel on day 3
14	Tawny Owl	one bird heard from the hotel on day 3
15	Little Owl	one bird heard from the hotel on day 3
16	Alpine Swift	close views of a dozen birds on Mt Faito
17	Swift	occasional
18	Bee-eater	a group seen from the hotel on day 7
19	Hoopoe	Pompeii and Positano
20	Wryneck	two birds seen well at Termini allotments
21	Green Woodpecker	heard calling on Mt Faito
22	Great-spotted Woodpecker	one bird at Pompeii
23	Swallow	occasional until 200+ on day 7
24	Tree Pipit	one bird singing at Pompeii
25	White Wagtail	occasional
26	Pied Wagtail	one bird on day 3
27	Wren	occasional
28	Robin	common
29	Nightingale	heard at Termini & Pompeii
30	Black Redstart	Mt Faito & Pompeii
31	Whinchat	frequent, good close views on Mt Faito
32	Stonechat	one bird at Pompeii
33	Black-eared Wheatear	one bird at Positano
34	Northern Wheatear	occasional
35	Blackbird	common
36	Blue Rock Thrush	seen or heard most days
37	Song Thrush	occasional
38	Fan-tailed Warbler	Seen at Nerano & Termini
39	Sub-alpine Warbler	Only on Capri and at Positano
40	Orphean Warbler	one seen at both Marina del Cantone & Positano
41	Whitethroat	occasional
42	Blackcap	common
43	Sardinian Warbler	frequently heard & occasionally glimpsed

44	Wood Warbler	frequent, the commonest migrant Warbler
45	Garden Warbler	one at Nerano
46	Chiffchaff	occasional
47	Firecrest	frequent, superb views on Mt Faito
48	Collared Flycatcher	a female at the hotel on day 5
49	Pied Flycatcher	common
50	Marsh Tit	only on Mt Faito
51	Blue Tit	frequent
52	Great Tit	frequent
53	Coal Tit	only on Monte Faito
54	Nuthatch	occasional
55	Red-backed Shrike	a female on Mt Faito
56	Jay	Monte Faito and Vesuvius
57	Magpie	only at Pompeii
58	Raven	seen most days
59	Hooded Crow	occasional
60	Italian House Sparrow	abundant
61	Tree Sparrow	only on day 7 near the hotel
62	Chaffinch	common
63	Greenfinch	occasional
64	Siskin	one bird seen on Mt Faito
65	Goldfinch	only at Nerano
66	Serin	abundant
67	Cirl Bunting	occasional

## Butterflies

Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>
Southern Festoon	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		

## Other Invertebrates

Bloody-nosed Beetle	<i>Timarcha tenebricosa</i>	Silver Y Moth	<i>Autogramma gamma</i>
Oil Beetle	<i>Meloe variegates</i>	Garden Carpet Moth	<i>Xanthohoe fluctuate</i>
Gendarme Bug	<i>Lygaeus saxatilis</i>	Cuckoo Bee	<i>Melecta luctuosa</i>
Chafer Beetle	<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>	Solitary Wasp	<i>Sphex sp</i>
Fire Bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>	Millipede sp	<i>Diplopoda sp</i>
Dung Beetle sp	<i>Geotrupes sp</i>		

## Reptiles

Italian Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis sicula</i>	Moorish Gecko	<i>Talentola mauritanica</i>
Western Whip Snake	<i>Coluber viridiflavus</i>	Common Lizard	<i>Lacerta vivipara</i>