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Campi Flegrei. Burning Earth

Luigi Spina

Contributions by Fabio Pagano

ISBN	9788874396719
Publisher	5 Continents Editions
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding Italy and France
Size	306 mm x 216 mm
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Illustrations	140 color
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- Luigi Spina's fascinating images focus on key landmarks of the Campi Flegrei area near Naples, including archaeological sites and landscapes, linking nature, ruins and human presence
- The book reveals the complex coexistence of ancient history and modern urban sprawl in a precarious balance
- Spina's work features evocative locations such as the Dragonara Cave, the Piscina Mirabilis, the Theatre of Misenum, the Flavian Amphitheatre, the Temple of Apollo and the Temples of Venus and Diana
- The accompanying text is co-written by Fabio Pagano, Director of the Campi Flegrei Archaeological Park, and provides an authoritative archaeological context

Campi Flegrei, near Naples, is a seismically active landscape that attracts, stimulates, and challenges. It seduces the soul, engages perception, and demands to be interpreted rather than merely registered.

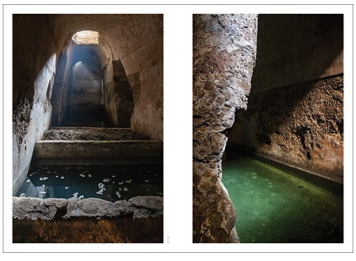
People have chosen to live amongst these unique geological and volcanic features, weaving the fabric of human occupation and taming a land in perpetual transformation, one of the harshest yet most enchanting environments. Mankind has matched its own impermanence against the earth's inevitable and unrestrained convulsions, in the process hewing out some of the most glorious examples of human endeavour, such as Cumae, the oldest Greek colony in the Western Mediterranean, the bustling Roman port of Puteoli, and the "dolce vita" savoured in the baths and villas dotted around the Bay of Baiae.

Luigi Spina has been exploring this land since 2020, delving into the complex, stratified geography. Key landmarks include places of memory (archaeological sites, monuments, landscapes), which, like true benchmarks of perception, outline the path towards an understanding of a world that links nature, ancient ruins, and the overwhelming presence of mankind. Balanced between mimicry and contradiction, the Campi Flegrei landscape is now blanketed by a dense urban sprawl, where the ancient and the contemporary coexist in a kind of precarious equilibrium, generating a complex socio-cultural state of affairs that is challenging to govern.

Spina explores and photographs places such as the Dragonara Cave, the Piscina Mirabilis, the Theatre of Misenum, the Flavian Amphitheatre at Puteoli, the Temple of Apollo on the shores of Lake Avernus, and the Temples of Venus and Diana, as he wanders through the hills above Baiae, finally heading towards Cumae.

Luigi Spina has published several photographic books with 5 Continents Editions, including *The Buchner Boxes* (2014), *Hemba* (2017) and *Mythical Diary* (2017), which explored the Farnese Collection. With the same publisher, he created the *Hidden Treasures* series: *The Farnese Cup, The Alexander Mosaic, Saint Dominic by Niccolò dell'Arca, The Riace Bronzes* (2022), the *Canova. Four Tempos* project (2020–2024) and the sweeping *Inside Pompeii* project (2023). **Fabio Pagano** is an archaeologist and the director of the Campi Flegrei Archeological Park.







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