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Understanding a volcano through a droplet: A melt inclusion approach

C. Cannatelli, A.L. Doherty, R. Esposito, A. Lima, B. De Vivo

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

#### Understanding a volcano through a droplet: a melt inclusion approach

Cannatelli C.<sup>1</sup>,\*, Doherty A.L.<sup>1</sup>, Esposito R.<sup>2</sup>, Lima A.<sup>1</sup> and De Vivo B.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, dell'Ambiente e delle Risorse, Università di Napoli Federico II, Italy

<sup>2</sup> Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences, UC Los Angeles, CA, USA

Corresponding author: claudia.cannatelli@unina.it

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#### Abstract

This review paper is intended to be a guideline to novices on how to conduct research on silicate melt inclusions in volcanic environments, which analytical techniques are more suitable to gather the desired data and the major pitfalls scientist may encounter. Silicate melt inclusions (SMIs) are small quantities of silicate melt that are trapped in minerals during their growth or crystallization. They contain liquids formed in equilibrium with their host minerals and therefore record the liquid line of descent of magmatic systems. Upon trapping, SMIs become ideally closed to the surrounding environment, and behave as time capsules, giving important information about processes that originated magmas and the nature of their mantle source. A melt inclusions investigation is composed of several steps: (1) a detailed petrographic study to characterize and select representative SMIs, with the aim of identifying Melt Inclusions Assemblages (MIA), the only reliable tool to assess that SMIs obey Roedder's rules and have not re-equilibrated following entrapment; (2) a careful preparation of samples for re-heating experiments and microanalysis; (3) high temperature studies in

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