

The sombrero galaxy seen from cities

June 1 2018



Sombrero Galaxy (M104) taken from San Francisco, on May 17 2018. Credit: SETI Institute

We're happy to share with you an update from our partner Unistellar. The team has recently collected a pair of images of the glorious Sombrero Galaxy (M104 in the Messier Catalog) taken during one of their most recent observing runs.

Both images were taken in heavily light-polluted environments, the first near Marseille, in the south of France, on May 17 and the second from San Francisco, California on May 14. As usual, these are unedited images, and they clearly show what you can see with our eVscope prototype after just a few hundreds of seconds of observing.

Located in the constellation of Virgo, the Sombrero Galaxy is too faint to be seen with naked eye (V~8). It was discovered in 1781 by French astronomer and comet hunter Pierre Méchain, a colleague of Charles Messier, and reported independently by William Herschel in 1784.

M104 is one of the most photogenic [galaxies](#) known because it has a brilliant white, bulbous core circled by thick dust that gives the galaxy its spiral structure. Astronomers have detected more than 2,000 globular clusters swarming around the core of this galaxy, which contains a [supermassive black hole](#) at its heart, 250 times more massive than the black hole in our own galaxy.

This Sombrero is 50,000 light-years across (half the size of our Milky Way) and located 30 million light-years away from us. It's uncertain whether it's part of a [galaxy group](#), and is called the Sombrero because of its resemblance to the iconic Mexican hat.



Sombrero Galaxy (M104) taken from Marseille, on May 14 2018. Credit: SETI Institute

Provided by SETI Institute

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