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Sombrero Galaxy

Quick Facts:

Distance: 29 Million Light-years.

Size: 50,000 Light-years.

Constellation: Virgo.

An unusual object with characteristics of both spiral and elliptical galaxies. A big central bulge (contains a supermassive black hole) is like an elliptical, while the dust lanes in its disk are like those of a big spiral galaxy. As a hat in a telescopic view, the bulge is the crown while the disk is the brim. M-104.

Find it: Look for it in Virgo by sweeping 10 degrees due west of Spica.

GOTO: M (Messier).

Image by NASA/ESA, Hubble Heritage Team STScI/AURA. Quick reference card, Derek Wallentinsen.