

Our selection represents different genres, regions and historical periods. Dipping in to a few of these will bring to life the idiosyncrasies, pleasures, people and varying landscapes of Italy

Art & History

The Agony & the Ecstasy
Irving Stone

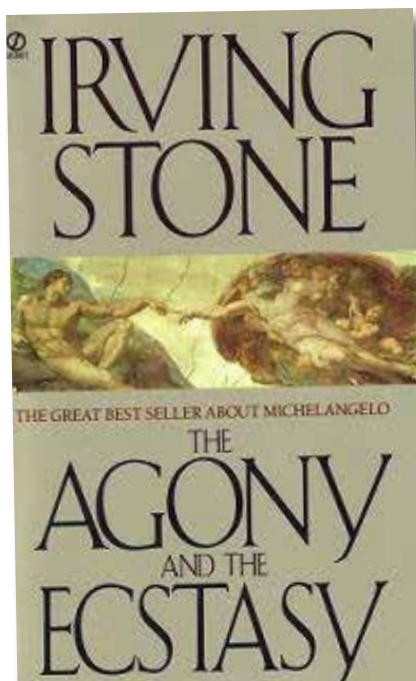
This classic historic novel about Michelangelo will keep you enthralled despite its length.

The City of Falling Angels
John Berendt

Set in Venice, the book tells the real-life mystery of the La Fenice Opera House fire.

Brunelleschi's Dome
Ross King

A great read before a visit to Florence. It will give you a new appreciation of the impressive dome.



Food & Wine

Eating & Drinking in Italy: Italian Menu Translator & Restaurant Guide - Andy Herbach

Pocket-sized guide to help navigate Italian menus. It contains pages of food translations, tips on restaurant etiquette, a pronunciation guide, descriptions of the many different kinds of eating establishments in Italy.

How to Order an Italian Coffee in Italy

E-book by Sara Rosso

A fun, handy guide for anyone wanting to successfully negotiate one of the country's most important daily rituals.

Extra Virginity - Tom Mueller

Helps you distinguish the really good olive oil in a landscape filled with both frauds and bona fide producers.

How Italian Food Conquered the World - John Mariani

The book covers everything from peasant kitchens to Michelin restaurants, tracing Italian food over the past several centuries. You'll even find the origins of the famous red and white checked tablecloths.

Italy for the Gourmet Traveller - Fred Plotkin

Considered by many to be the bible of regional Italian cuisine. Includes descriptions of regional dishes and local products; recipes; restaurant, bakery, and food store addresses and suggestions.

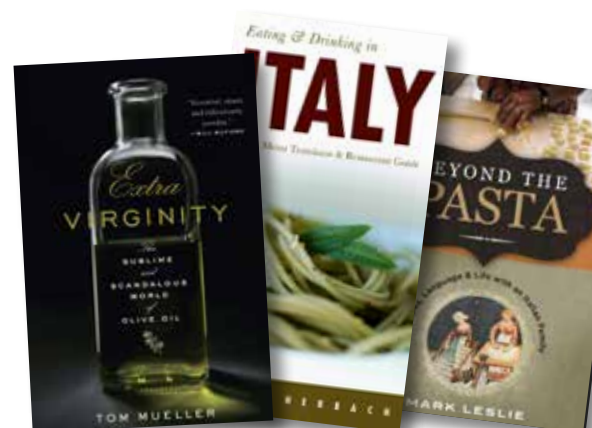
Beyond the Pasta - Mark Leslie

Great combination of recipes, travelogue and description on the Italian way of life, markets and food habits.

The Italian Wine Guide:

The Definitive Guide to Touring, Sourcing, and Tasting - Touring Club of Italy

This is a great practical handbook including detailed maps, names of wineries and descriptions of regional wines.





Mafia

Gomorra - Roberto Saviano

A highly-acclaimed exposé on the Camorra Mafia in the Campania region.

Excellent Cadavers - Alexander Stille

A true story from the Sicilian mafia

Memoirs & Travelogues

Mezza Italiana - Zoë Boccabella

A travel memoir on Southern Italy bringing to life the festivals, food, landscape and style of the region.

Venice Observed - Mary McCarthy

Originally published in 1956 this book is still relevant and very highly acclaimed for its honest and authentic observations on Venice.

The Seasons of Rome. Journal - Paul Hofmann

A former New York Times bureau chief, Hoffmann spent 30 years in Rome and captures the fine points of daily life in the city, its ambiance and quirks.

Under the Tuscan Sun - Frances Mayes

Made into a very popular film, the book is still worth a read and will bring Cortona to life.

People & Culture

The Italians - Luigi Barzini

Written by an Italian, it is a great introduction to the country.

Italian Neighbors - Tim Parks

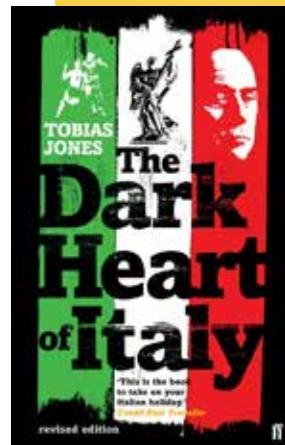
Describes life as an Englishman in a small Italian town. It will bring to life the idiosyncrasies and nuances of Italian culture from a foreigner's perspective.



Recent History & Politics

The Dark Heart of Italy - Tobias Jones

Interesting insights into Italy's checkered recent past and political turmoils. It's a book about loving Italy despite its flaws.



Soccer

A Season With Verona - Tim Parks

The author follows his Italian team around the country, going to every game they play that year. You'll come away with fantastic insights into the Italian people and culture.

Crime & Suspense

Andrea Camilleri's Inspector Montalbano Series

Set in Sicily, these are wonderful adventures into small-town living in Sicily, and there is no shortage of gastronomic delights. Made into a successful TV series.

Donna Leon's Commissario Guido Brunetti Series

Set in Venice where Leon has lived for over 25 years, each book sets about exposing a little more of the fascinating and mysterious aspects to living on the island.

The Broker - John Grisham

A classic Grisham novel, set in Bologna. It is a fantastic insight into real life in a small central Italian city, the typical customs and rituals.

Angels and Demons

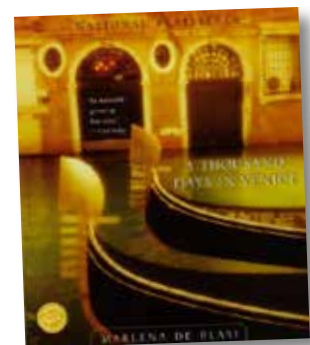
Dan Brown

Bestselling thriller set in Rome and the Vatican, involving conspiracies within the Catholic church.

Romanzo

Angela Montgomery

Set in Milan this is a fast-paced book about a young English girl's brushes with political corruption and scandal. It is a great read.



Romance

A Thousand Days in Venice - Marlena De Blasi

Packed with food, flavor, a few recipes, and romance in Venice. It is a great introduction to Italian life, culture, gastronomy.

Italy in The Classics

Shakespeare plays set in Italy are Romeo and Juliet (Verona), The Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing (Sicily), The Two Gentlemen of Verona, and The Taming of the Shrew (Padua).

Italian Journey - J.W Goethe

Goethe's 18th Century collection of travel writings describes his travels to Rome, Sicily, and Naples.

Italian Villas and their Gardens

Edith Wharton

Edith Wharton joined forces with the foremost illustrator of the time to celebrate a subject that was dear to them both: the incomparable villas and gardens of Italy.

A Room With a View - EM Forster

Published in 1908, it will definitely add to the mystery and appeal of Florence as you conjure up what it must have been like at the turn of the century.

Death in Venice - Thomas Mann

First published in 1912, the story begins with a great writer heading to Venice to try and overcome a bad case of writer's block.

Sea & Sardinia - D.H. Lawrence

Written after the First World War when he was living in Sicily, Sea and Sardinia records Lawrence's journey to Sardinia and back in January 1921.



Italy on Film

Roman Holiday (1953)

La Dolce Vita (1961)



Gladiator (2000)

Academy Award winner

1900 (1977)



The Godfather (1972)

Academy Award Winner

A Room with a View (1986)



Life Is Beautiful (1997)

Academy Award Winner

Bread and Tulips (2000)

The Italian Job (2003)

Cinema Paradiso (1990)

Tea with Mussolini (1999)

Enchanted April (1991)

Ciao, Professore! (1994)

Il Postino (1995)

Under the Tuscan Sun (2003)

The Talented Mr Ripley (1999)



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