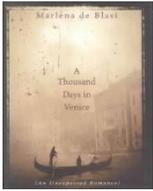


Books to try when you're going to: *Italia*

Memoirs

***A Thousand Days in Venice* by Marlena de Blasi**

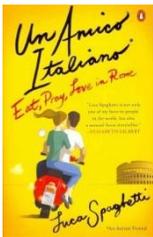


This romantic memoir of a love between a Venetian and a transplanted American is full of vivid descriptions. On a trip to Venice, de Blasi meets a man who has fallen in love with her at first sight. Eventually, she agrees to marry him and move to Italy. Though cultural and personal differences create tension, ultimately de Blasi and her 'stranger' create a harmonious relationship. Recipes are included in the final chapter.

Available in: Print, eBook, Large Print

Try Also: *An Italian Affair* by Laura Fraser

***Un Amico Italiano* by Luca Spaghetti**

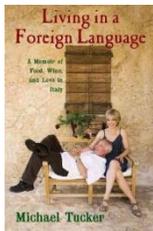


Lovers of Elizabeth Gilbert's *Eat, Pray, Love*, will love this return to Rome written by the man who helped Gilbert through the first part of her own journey. In this chatty memoir, Spaghetti (his real name, as he explains in the first chapter) describes growing up in Rome, his own trip to America, and Gilbert's trip to Rome from his perspective. Spaghetti's wit and stories make this light read will fly by.

Available in: Print, eBook

Try Also: *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert

***Living in a Foreign Language* by Michael Tucker**



In this reflective ode to Italy, food, and their long life together, veteran actor Michael Tucker recounts his adventures living in a renovated Italian villa in Umbria with his wife Jill Eikenberry. Through appetising descriptions of the food and endearing anecdotes of the people, this memoir is an inside look at the relationship and lives of two rich and famous ex-pats living in Italy.

Available in: Print

Try Also: *Under the Tuscan Sun: At Home in Italy* by Frances Mayes

***Venice is a Fish* by Tiziano Scarpa**



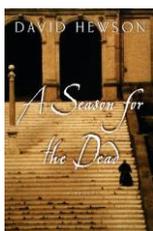
Venice is a Fish reads as a love poem to Venice. Tiziano Scarpa is well-known in Italy for his literary prose, and puts forward an excellent work in translation that seeks to convey the atmosphere of Venice without speaking of its most famous destinations. While positioned as a guide to the city, Scarpa deliberately does not mention the names of the shops and restaurants he describes. *Venice is a Fish* is an ambling stroll through Venice with a local guide interjecting anecdotes about this building on the left and pointing out something interesting about that canal on the right.

Available in: Print

Try Also: *Venice for Lovers* by Louis Begley

Mystery

***A Season for the Dead* by David Hewson**

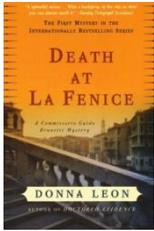


It starts in the Vatican Library when university professor Sara Farnese is confronted with the freshly flayed skin of an adult man. Matters quickly escalate when protagonist Detective Nic Costa is knocked out by the Swiss Guard in a conflict over jurisdiction, and two bodies are found in a nearby church. The first in a new series of detective novels set in modern Rome, *A Season for the Dead* features an intricate plot, a serial killer inspired by the stories of the saints, and graphic crime scenes. Full of details about Rome and her art, this novel is an intelligent and engrossing read.

Available in: Print, Large Print, Talking Book

Try Also: *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown

***Death at La Fenice* by Donna Leon**

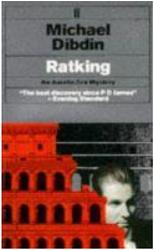


The musical tone plays, calling the audience back to their seats. Minutes pass, but the opera does not resume. Finally a man steps through the curtain and asks if there is a doctor in the house. In this puzzling murder mystery set in Venice, Commissario Guido Brunetti must discover the killer amongst the suspects despite the incompetents he works with. Luckily, he is not racing against the clock. Newcomers to this series will have plenty of opportunity to get to know the characters—currently there are 23 installments!

Available in: Print, eBook, Large Print

Try Also: *Death of an Englishman* by Magdalen Nabb

***Ratking* by Michael Dibdin**



In this psychological thriller, a disillusioned detective who has been on desk duty for years after a case gone wrong is temporarily transferred to Perugia to solve the kidnapping of a prominent industrialist. But the case is months old and there are complications with the man's family. Dibdin successfully creates a sympathetic protagonist in Aurelio Zen while weaving a complicated plot. Readers looking for more can find a made-for-tv version!

Available in: Print, DVD

Also Try: *The Last Enemy: a Commissario Cenni Investigation* by Grace Brophy

History

***A Venetian Affair* by Andrea de Robilant**



When he was a young man, de Robilant's father brought home a box containing the torrid love letters sent between one of his ancestors and his lover during the 18th century. The coded messages revealed the details of the ill-fated love affair between de Robilant's ancestor, Andrea Memmo, and his lover, Giustiniana Wynne. Those who love history will love this engrossing story of two Venetian lovers—one a prominent politician, the other a woman of illegitimate birth who had a close friend in Casanova. This story will take you through an older time in Venetian society.

Available in: Print, Large Print

Also Try: *Sex with the Queen* by Eleanor Herman

***Saving Italy: The Race to Save a Nation's Treasures from the Nazis* by Robert M. Edsel**

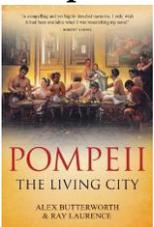


The author of *The Monuments Men* returns to tell the exciting tale of the work of Allied soldiers and specialists, Vatican curators, and even a Nazi SS officer to save Italy's artistic treasures from the devastation of Allied bombs and the pillaging done during the Nazi exodus from the Italian peninsula. Using extensive primary research to form a complete picture, Edsel's book is a close look at a little-known element of World War II.

Available in: Print, Audiobook

Also Try: *Hitler's Holy Relics* by Sidney Kirkpatrick

***Pompeii: The Living City* by Alex Butterworth and Ray Lawrence**



This tale of the city of Pompeii leading up to the eruption at Vesuvius uses compelling fictional episodes to highlight and introduce the fascinating history of a city that vanished from the face of the Earth. Butterworth and Lawrence examine the stories of this ancient city's inhabitants from all social strata using vivid imagery and fascinating anecdotes.

Available in: Print

Also Try: *St. Peter's Bones* by Thomas J. Craughwell