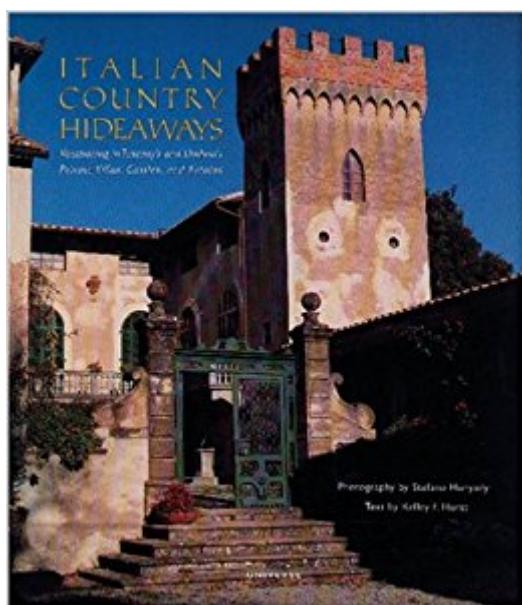


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Italian Country Hideaways: Vacationing In Tuscany And Umbria's Most Unforgettable Private Villas, Castles, And Estates



Synopsis

Taking you off the beaten path of tourist Italy, "Italian Country Hideaways" invites you to the most unforgettable private villas, castles, fortresses, and farmhouses-places in which you can actually stay. An introduction to each region's local food and wine, sites, festivals, and other points of interest is followed by a selection of unique estates memorable for their meals, dcor, architecture, grounds, and history. Opening up their ancestral homes, the owners of these preserved and fully functional estates now offer you a key to the hidden splendors of the Italian countryside. A detailed appendix provides all the practical information you'll need for planning your visits, including complete contact information, prices, amenities, and dates of availability, plus helpful facts and advice on transportation, seasonal considerations, and making reservations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kelley F. Hurst, a community arts and cultural planner, has written for a variety of nonprofit organizations. Stefano Hunyady's work has appeared in Italian and American magazines including Chi, Storie, Contatto Discographia, American Health, and Avenue. A graduate of Connecticut College and Parsons School of Design, he has also studied at the Sorbonne and the Institute d'Art in Paris.

The pictures were beautiful but I expected more information on each property. They gave a small background on each but not much.

This book was a quick read and will not remain in my library. I can not say I would recommend buying it and I would have if I had seen it in hand first.

Read this book from cover to cover. Great info and great pictures. I wasn't disappointed with the purchase, as I sometimes am when purchasing a book unseen.

This is a wonderful Italian guide book that provides the reader a selection of off-the-beaten- track inns in the very scenic and culturally rich regions of Tuscany and Umbria. We used Ms Hurst's "Italian Country Hideaways" to book a glorious stay at a 19th century, castle-estate in Umbria. Her description of the Titignano estate accurately captured its atmosphere, our stay there was the highlight of our Italian vacation. The audience for this book is anyone who has an appreciation for Italy and is looking for information to go beyond the typical tourist staples of Italy, i.e. Rome, Venice and Florence. Ms Hurst impeccable research provides the reader a rich resource to discover the hidden splendors that a non-native Italian tourist would not find. The books starts with a short introduction in which Ms Hurst describes her criteria for featuring the 30 unique inns. The text is well written by someone who knows her subject and obviously enjoyed doing her research. "Italian Country Hideaways" is filled with splendid photos that aptly portrays the scenic and immensely civilized Tuscany and Umbria regions and its featured inns. In essence its a tourist guide and coffee table book in one. Included is all the prerequisite information on how to contact (phone, fax and email addresses) the inns. The only quip I have is the lack of an updated map, it would have been helpful to provide an idea where these inns are relative to the say Florence and Rome. Otherwise, this is a great travel resource for anyone contemplating a trip to the Tuscany region and who wants to interact with the local culture.

An excellent guide that takes you off the beaten tourist trap path. This warm and wonderful book invites you to the most unforgettable private villas, castles, fortresses, and farmhouses-places most of which you can actually stay. This book also is a good introduction to each region's local food and wine, sites, festivals, and other points of interest. The book continues to a selection of unique estates memorable that are known for their meals, architecture, grounds, and history. Opening this book is like the owners of these preserved and fully functional estates opening up their ancestral homes many of whom actually do and this book shows you how. The book further lays a full featured and detailed appendix providing all the practical information you'll need for planning your visits, including complete contact information, prices, amenities, and dates of availability, plus

helpful facts and advice on transportation, seasonal considerations, and making reservations. Ever think of traveling to Italy and seeing the romantic heart of this beautiful country. This is the book you will need.

This is not only a beautiful book, with gorgeous pictures of Tuscany's castles and countryside, but also provides an excellent service by relaying contact information for all of the castles profiled in the book. My husband and I stayed at Castello di Ripa D'orcia this past fall and it was the highlight of our Italy vacation. We chose the castle as our base since the pictures were so magnificent--and we were not disappointed. It was well off the beaten path and it was the only time during our vacation that we were exposed to a real slice of Italy without the onslaught of tour buses that seemed to invade many of the other small villages in the area. If you are planning a trip to Italy, I highly recommend that you comb through this book and choose one of the country estates to stay in. It will make your trip much more memorable and enjoyable.

A vividly photographed and expressively written book on one of the most beautiful places in the World. For those who have no idea how life can be enjoyed by taking in all that Tuscany & Umbria have to offer- great wines, cuisine, scenery that has drawn artists to it over the centuries. You will understand the importance of history and traditions in the region and appreciate its delights. And for those who think they know the area, be prepared to make new discoveries...

I have never been to Tuscany nor even Italy, but after this book, I can hardly wait to go. If the author and photographer were able to stay in all the places mentioned, they were truly lucky. I have lent this book to friends who HAVE been to Tuscany, and mostly they are sorry they missed so many of the beautiful homes etc. But, universally, they say that it gives them a good excuse to go back for another visit! Well done to both author and photographer!

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