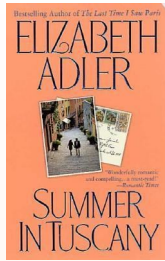


# *La Dolce Vita: Contemporary tales of life, love, scenery and food in Italy*

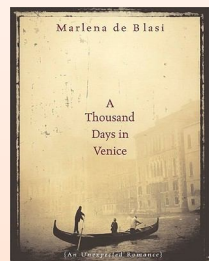
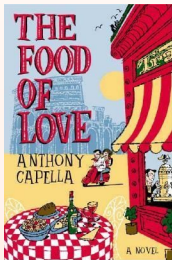


## **Summer in Tuscany by Elizabeth Adler**

Gemma, an overworked ER doctor, her mother, Nonna, a typical Italian widow who spends her week cooking the Sunday supper and daughter Livvie, a punked-up but well-adjusted teen, are living normal, unexciting lives in New York City until Nonna receives a letter informing her of an inheritance in her childhood village of Bella Piacere. The letter launches the family into situations both delicious and funny in a novel in which romance is detailed as vividly as the landscape of Tuscany.

## **The Food of Love by Anthony Capella**

This modern version of the Cyrano story is a lighthearted novel set in the Eternal City. Enchanted by Rome's rich culture but not by being hit on by every male she meets, first-time American visitor Laura tells an Italian friend that she's through with horny, clumsy Italian men, and that what she needs is a cook: "That's the thing about chefs. They know how to use their hands." Soon though, Laura unexpectedly finds herself falling for the handsome Tomasso, who woos her with magnificent meals but hides the fact that his roommate – the shy, enamored Bruno – is actually the chef.

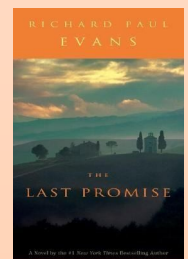
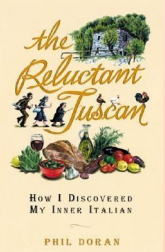


## **A Thousand Days in Venice by Marlena De Blasi (Biography)**

Venice is synonymous with romance and de Blasi spares no detail in telling us how she fell under its spell. A journalist, restaurant critic and food consultant, she left her home, her grown children and her job in St. Louis to marry Fernando, a Venetian she barely knew. Food comforted the newlyweds when their conflicting cultures almost divided them, but in the end, marital harmony reigns. Is this book a romance, a food guide or an exhortation for us to come to Venice and experience the magic? Ultimately, this autobiography is all three, and there is even an appendix that includes recipes for dishes described in the text.

## **The Reluctant Tuscan by Phil Doran (945 Doran)**

Readers of Doran's amusing memoir about relocating from L.A. to the tiny Tuscan town of Cambione must first suspend their disbelief that any person would actively resist such an opportunity. But resist Doran does – and when his sculptor wife buys a ramshackle, 300-year-old house on a whim, she must drag him kicking and screaming out of his high-stress life as a Hollywood writer and producer. Doran's brutally funny accounts of tangles with everyone (including the mayor, the police, an inefficient landlord and Doran's long-suffering wife) are enough to keep readers hooked until the last page. It may not be a surprise that he lives happily ever after, but how he gets there is certainly worth the ride.



## **The Last Promise by Richard Paul Evans**

Eliana has been living in Italy for several years. She's a talented artist in her 30s who came to Italy to study art and married Maurizio Fernini, the head of a large family agricultural enterprise. What seemed like a fairy tale quickly soured as Maurizio began spending much of his time traveling and phillandering, leaving her to care for their severely asthmatic son, Alessio. Then she meets Ross Story, an art lover and tour guide who knows everything about everything in the Uffizi Gallery. Eliana asks Ross to sit for a portrait, and as the two fall for each other, she faces a tormenting choice between romantic love and her love for her son. Evans paces his story skillfully and plays up the Tuscan landscape to maximum effect.



JOHN  
GRISHAM



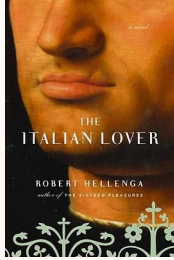
Playing for Pizza

### Playing for Pizza by John Grisham

Quarterback Rick Dockery becomes the greatest goat ever by throwing three interceptions in the closing minutes of the AFC championship game. Fleeing vengeful fans, he finds refuge in the Italian National Football League as quarterback for the inept Parma Panthers. The result is a charming fish-out-of-water story. While Rick is at first baffled and then enchanted by all things Italian – tiny cars, opera and benign corruption – in this novel, Grisham instructs his readership in the art of gracious living, featuring sumptuous four-hour, umpteen-course meals.

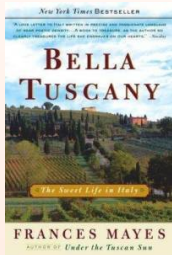
### The Italian Lover by Robert Hellenga

In the fall of 1990, book restorer and longtime American ex-pat Margot is 53, living in her adopted Florence and awaiting the arrival of a film producer who wants to adapt her 1975 memoir for film. At the same time, Margot meets and falls in love with Alan Woody Woodhull, an Illinois-bred guitarist who gigs at the Bebop Club and also teaches literature at the American Academy. Elegant in its colorful use of Italian phrases, cuisine and sites, Hellenga's complex novel offers a vivid, often sophisticated view of modern Florence.



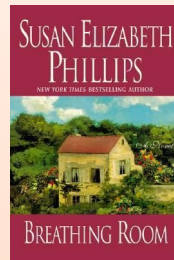
### Bella Tuscany: The Sweet Life in Italy by Frances Mayes (945 May)

Mayes returns to her beloved villa in the small hill town of Cortona, Italy. As she rediscovers her taste for *la dolce vita*, she embarks on a journey of cultural awakening and embraces a newfound romance with the Italian language and people. "I came to Italy expecting adventure," says Mayes. "What I never anticipated is the absolute sweet joy of everyday life." Capturing the details that enrich the commonplace, here the author appears less like a visitor and more like someone discovering in Tuscany a real home and a real life.



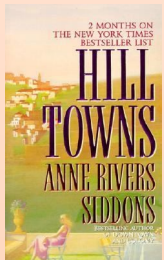
### Breathing Room by Susan Elizabeth Phillips

With her personal and professional life in shambles, self-help guru Dr. Isabel Favor escapes to Tuscany to rest, write and rethink her future. But her hopes of a peaceful idyll are dashed when the locals try to convince her to leave her rented farmhouse. The owner turns out to be Lorenzo Gage, a film star and the man with whom Isabel had an impulsive, one-night stand on her first evening in Florence. Chaos reigns and so does passion in this funny yet surprisingly insightful contemporary romance, which gives its optimistic heroine and conflicted movie-idol hero a little "breathing room" and lets Italy's hill country work its magic.



### Hill Towns: A Novel by Anne Rivers Siddons

This story follows Cat and her husband Joe on their journey of midlife discovery in which they flirt with the possibility of affairs, bicker, challenge assumptions, make new friends, drink too much, eat fabulous food and tour Rome, Florence and Venice. It's like being there. Siddons lets you inhabit Cat's mind and experience her struggles to overcome agoraphobia, her uncertainties about Joe and, most of all, her neophyte-traveler's view of Italy. The novel is an exploration of a mature relationship and at the same time an effective travelogue.



### Very Valentine by Adriana Trigiani

The Angelini Shoe Company, makers of exquisite wedding shoes since 1903, is one of the last family-owned businesses in Greenwich Village. The company is on the verge of financial collapse. It falls to thirty-three-year-old Valentine Roncalli, the talented and determined apprentice to her grandmother, the master artisan Teodora Angelini, to bring the family's old-world craftsmanship into the twenty-first century and save the company from ruin. Valentine returns to Italy with her grandmother to learn new techniques and seek one-of-a-kind materials for building a pair of glorious shoes to beat their rivals. There, in Tuscany, Naples, and on the Isle of Capri, a family secret is revealed as Valentine discovers her artistic voice and much more, turning her life and the family business upside down in ways she never expected.

