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The Cognoscenti's Guide To Florence: Shop And Eat Like A Florentine



Synopsis

Shop and eat like a Florentine with this pocket-sized guide to the best of the magnificent Tuscan city known for its art, culture, and cuisine. Celebrated graphic designer and self-described Italophile Louise Fili, with connoisseur of all things Lisa Apatoff, takes you on eight walks through Florence, discussing more than seventy of the city's most alluring shops—some run by the same families for generations, others offering young entrepreneurs' fresh interpretations of traditional techniques. Discerning travelers will discover rare books and charming hats; vintage Pucci and handmade shoes; cioccolata da bere (drinkable chocolate); colorful buttons; and bolts of rich silk fabric in this enchanting introduction to makers and purveyors of clothing, home decor, accessories, specialty foods, and much more. For each shop, there is a full-color photo, description of specialties, and information on location and hours of operation.

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Customer Reviews

I downloaded this to my Kindle for my recent trip to Florence along with a few other guides. This was hands down the best guide to shopping in Florence. The stores we visited from this book were family owned, sometimes for generations and had unique, quality merchandise. One store owner took me into his workshop to show me how my one of a kind handbag I was purchasing had been produced. When I admired the beauty of a pair of earrings I was buying for my sister-in-law in another store the person helping me was delighted and told me he had crafted them. If you are visiting Florence and plan to do any shopping (and you're crazy if you don't) this is a reference that I recommend without reservation.

It is exactly what I need. My previous visits to Firenze were in 1965 and 1985. Too long to be away and this time I will be there with 5 different friends who haven't been there before. The walks, with shops and restaurants, is perfect. The maps are also a big plus.

Used this during a visit to Florence earlier this year. I visited several of the stores and peeked in the windows of many places mentioned in this guide. I found the food store reviews especially helpful (EVOO, gelato, etc.) I left this book behind in the boutique hotel's library when I checked out. I wanted other visitors to enjoy it as much as I did.

Good addition to my other travel books but I'm glad it was not my only book. One restaurant that the book said was open at a specific hour / day was closed when we arrived was very disappointing but we tried the next day and did enjoy a very good meal at a good price. If the book was more up-to-date or less expensive I would give it four stars.

Our family loved reading about and exploring these guided walks around Florence. I really enjoyed the beautiful rich color photographs in the guide that give you a real sense of the small custom stores. Lise Apatoff is a fantastic guide, our children absolutely loved her sense of history and her attention to detail as well as her deep knowledge about the best gelato in town! Her skill and insider knowledge shine through in this guide.

The book starts out enticing. I still feel like some things are missing but maybe once you get to Florence those items are on every corner already. I do wish they included pictures of the cafes and such. My copy has major errors in printing, with a lot of extra pages repeated. About 20 pages are a mishmash of pages that are in the wrong order and extra copies.

This is the second guide I have purchased from this author. Being a frequent traveler to Italy (and a travel advisor specializing in travel in Italy) I found this a delightful resource. It's loaded with useful tips on where to buy specialty items and marvelous spots to stop in for a meal or gelato.

Ms. Fili has presented us with a gift of her experience, taste and organizational skills. I live in Italy and go to Florence often. Although I am not familiar with all of her recommendations, the ones that she names are also some of my personal favorites. It is a joy to see someone highlight the

artisanship of the Florentines. I highly recommend this book.

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