

The Armchair Traveler Explores

Italy

Call #	Title & Author	Description
<i>Fiction</i>		
FIC Dunant	The Birth of Venus Sarah Dunant	Turning fifteen in Renaissance Florence, Alessandra Cecchi becomes intoxicated with the works of a young painter whom her father has brought to the city to decorate the family's Florentine palazzo.
FIC Forbes	Waking Raphael Leslie Forbes	When a series of apparent miracles occurs in Urbino, Italy, the birthplace of Raphael, restoration begins on one of the famed artist's enigmatic paintings in the hopes of locating a secret clue.
FIC Hazzard	The Bay of Noon Shirley Hazzard	A nuanced story about a friendship between two women: Jenny, an English diplomatic assistant on assignment in post-WWII Italy. And Gioconda, the sole mistress of a decaying ancestral home rooted in the heart of Naples.
FIC Hellenga	The Fall of a Sparrow Robert Hellenga	After the tragic death of his beloved oldest daughter during a terrorist bombing in Italy, an American man attends the trial of the terrorists and returns to the scene of the tragedy, marking a new beginning in his life.
FIC Russell	A Thread of Grace Mary Doria Russell	In 1943, Claudette and her father flee across the Alps into Italy with other Jews seeking refuge only to find an open battle ground among the Nazis, Allied forces, resistance fighters and ordinary Italians struggling to survive.
FIC Vreeland	Passion of Artemesia Susan Vreeland	A novel set against the backdrops of Rome, Florence and Genoa recreates the life of Artemisia Gentileschi, whose search for love, forgiveness and wholeness through her art led to her fame as a painter.
MYS Dibdin	A Rich, Full Death Michael Dibdin	Members of the foreign community in a quaint Italian backwater are dying at an alarming rate and in an extraordinary variety of ingenious and horrible ways.
MYS Leon	Uniform Justice Donna Leon	As Commissario Guido Brunetti pursues his investigation into the supposed suicide of a young cadet at Venice's elite military academy, he must confront the military's wall of silence, reluctant witnesses and a possible conspiracy.
MYS Nabb	Some Bitter Taste Magdalen Nabb	Investigating the murder of an elderly resident in Florence, Marshal Guarnaccia finds clues among a group of Jewish refugees, a band of English expatriates and an heir to an elegant villa.

Non-Fiction — Look for Italian cookbooks in 641.594 and for travel guides in 914.5.

BIOG Galilei	Galileo's Daughter Dava Sobel	This is a graceful retelling of Galileo's battle with the Roman Catholic Church through the letters of his daughter, a cloistered nun.
BIOG Vinci	Leonardo di Vinci: Renaissance Master	A video on the life of Leonardo di Vinci, the Italian Renaissance artist and inventor.
CLASSIC Machiavelli	Prince Niccolo Machiavelli	This is among the world's most famous master plans for seizing and holding power. Astonishing in its candor, <i>The Prince</i> remains a disturbingly realistic and prophetic work on what it takes to be a prince... a king... a president.
NON-FIC 364.152 Viviano	Blood Washes Blood Frank Viviano	The author tries to uncover a family secret: how his great-great-grandfather, a man mysteriously known as "the Monk," was gunned down in rural Sicily, the victim of an ordered hit.
NON-FIC 729.609 King	Brunelleschi's Dome Ross King	Describes how a fifteenth-century goldsmith and clockmaker, Filippo Brunelleschi, came up with a unique design for the dome to crown Florence's magnificent new cathedral, Santa Maria del Fiore.
NON-FIC 759.5 King	Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling Ross King	King tells how Michelangelo Buonarroti, known as a sculptor not as a painter, spent four years painting the ceiling of the newly restored Sistine Chapel for Pope Julius II while power politics and personal rivalries swirled around him.

NON-FIC 759.5 Robb	M: The Man Who Became Caravaggio Peter Robb	Sixteenth-century Italy was not known for its tolerance of iconoclasts, and the hard-living, scandal-generating Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio certainly was one. But he changed the art of painting in the course of his brief, violent life, a life that is ably captured in this insightful and entertaining volume.
NON-FIC 914.5 Hodgson	Italy Out of Hand Barbara Hodgson	This guidebook is an idiosyncratic tour of a country that is too overwhelming and extravagant for most of us to comprehend without a little guidance. It's illustrated with an equally eclectic selection of photographs, portraits, and art.
NON-FIC 914.5 Murray	City of the Soul William Murray	A New Yorker staff writer tours the city where he was raised, revealing stories that only a longtime resident would know, and capturing the sights, sounds and flavors that make Rome a combination of the deep past and the ever-sensual present.
NON-FIC 945.18 Hawes	Extra-Virgin Anne Hawes	Two English sisters go to Italy for a summer of romance and adventure, and instead, end up owning a relic of a cottage with some eccentric neighbors.
NON-FIC 945.3 Di Robilant	A Venetian Affair Andrea Di Robilant	The unbelievable story of this star-crossed couple is told two and half centuries after it happened in a breathtaking narrative, re-created in part from the passionate, clandestine letters the lovers wrote to each other.
NON-FIC 945.31 De Blasi	A Thousand Days in Venice Marlene De Blasi	<i>A Thousand Days in Venice</i> is the enchanting true story of a woman who opens her heart—and falls in love with both a man and a city.
NON-FIC 945.5 Mayes	Under the Tuscan Sun Francis Mayes	Frances Mayes entered a wondrous new world when she began restoring an abandoned villa in the spectacular Tuscan countryside.

Videos and DVDs

VIDEO Comedy ROM	Roman Holiday	A young princess, tired of the constraints her position brings, runs away. She doesn't know the man who befriends her is a reporter out for a story.
VIDEO Drama TAL	The Talented Mr. Ripley	Ripley is sent to Europe to retrieve a rich and spoiled millionaire playboy, but when the errand fails, Ripley kills the playboy and assumes his life.
VIDEO Drama TEA	Tea with Mussolini	A group of Englishwomen live a sheltered existence in Florence Italy and believe they're guaranteed personal protection during a tea reception given by Il Duce.
VIDEO Foreign ART	Artemisia	The untold true story of a great Italian Renaissance painter who was a woman.
VIDEO Foreign LA	La Dolce Vita	Marcello is a young playboy journalist who spends his days between celebrities and rich people, seeking for ephemeral joy in parties and sex.
VIDEO Foreign LIF	Life is Beautiful	In an attempt to hold his family together and help his son survive the horrors of a Jewish Concentration Camp, a father pretends that the Holocaust is a game whose grand prize is a tank.
VIDEO Foreign POS	Il Postino/The Postman	A simple Italian postman learns to love poetry while delivering mail to a famous poet, then uses his appreciation to woo the local beauty, Beatrice.
VIDEO Foreign SEV	Seven Beauties	During World War II, Germans capture Pasqualino, an Italian everyman, and send him to a prison camp where he does anything to survive.
VIDEO Foreign SWE	Swept Away	A rich woman, Raffaella, and some friends rent a yacht to sail the Mediterranean Sea during summer. Look for the classic Italian film, not the recent American remake.

LH 06/05