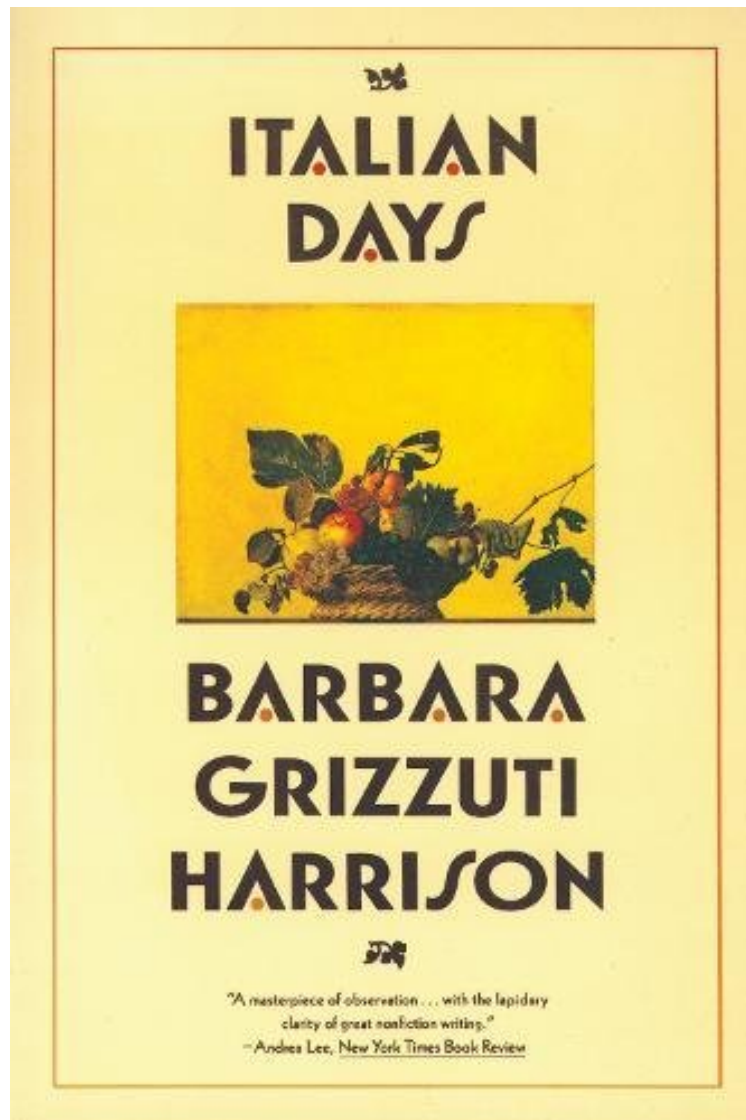


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Italian Days

Barbara Grizzuti Harrison

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Barbara Grizzuti Harrison : Italian Days before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Italian Days:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Should you go, or not? By john trocchio If you do not like this book, you will never understand Italy 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful Italy By Senta Troemelploetz Italian Days is beautifully written by an author who can really write. Her style is exquisite. All the important Italian cities and the landscapes of Southern Italy appear, so for anyone who ever was in Italy, this book will bring back memories as it did for me. For anyone who has not been to Italy, it will motivate them to hop into a plane

right away! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A vicarious tour of wonderful, dysfunction Italy By EDPI read this when it first came out, and loved it. It's waiting for me to reread in, in anticipation of making my own trek around Italy.

"Italian Days" is one of the richest and most absorbing travel books written--a journey that traverses the Italian peninsula and immerses readers in a culture which provides the reader with a definition of the good life.

From Publishers Weekly This is a rare pleasure: a travel book of almost Victorian amplitude that is also the product of a keen contemporary mind. Harrison, one of the best essayists around, as well as an occasional short story writer and a one-time novelist, journeyed to Italy in search of a national ethos as well as her own past. She discovered a great deal about both. Her accounts of living in turn in Milan (which she dislikes), Florence, Rome (where she feels ultimately at home), Naples and Calabria are captivating--rich with artistic and architectural insights, full of flashing, quirky asides and offbeat encounters. The writing is superb: eloquent, witty, colorful and lyrical. When she finally comes face to face with some of her distant relatives, Harrison catches wonderfully the ambivalence with which two cultures greet each other across an abyss of space and years. Italian Days does what all really fine travel writing does: it inspires the reader to look at life's possibilities anew. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. Barbara Grizzuti Harrison's travel journal is one of the most comprehensive, revealing and interpretive books of its genre. And yet Italian Days does not fit neatly into a category; lyrical, philosophical, anecdotal, it never pretends merely to give guidance or instruction to the traveler. The book is divided into eight chapters, each covering a city or specific region from Milan to Sicily. Barbara Harrison meanders through Italy, sharing her ideas about the people she encounters and all the while thinking- about architecture, religion, politics, food, society, nature, family and history. Her prose is joyful and informed, her descriptions of the people and places quite exhilarating: "The bus went slowly, like a swimmer who loves the water too much to race and challenge it, and the world unfolded like a child's picture book: gardeners turning over the soil with gnarled, patient hands; bronzed youths of Etruscan beauty casually strolling by the roadside as if here were just anywhere and everywhere was beautiful... laughing nuns pushing children on orange swings, their heavy habits floating on magnolia-scented air." This is a book to be read in small bits, so each detail and sentence might be savored, a book to relish whether or not you ever intend to visit Italy. -- For great reviews of books for girls, check out Let's Hear It for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14. -- From 500 Great Books by Women; review by Rebecca Sullivan About the Author Barbara Harrison is a middle school English teacher and codirector of Children's Literature New England. She is coauthor with Daniel Terris of biographies of John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy, both based on the authors' award-winning HBO documentaries. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.