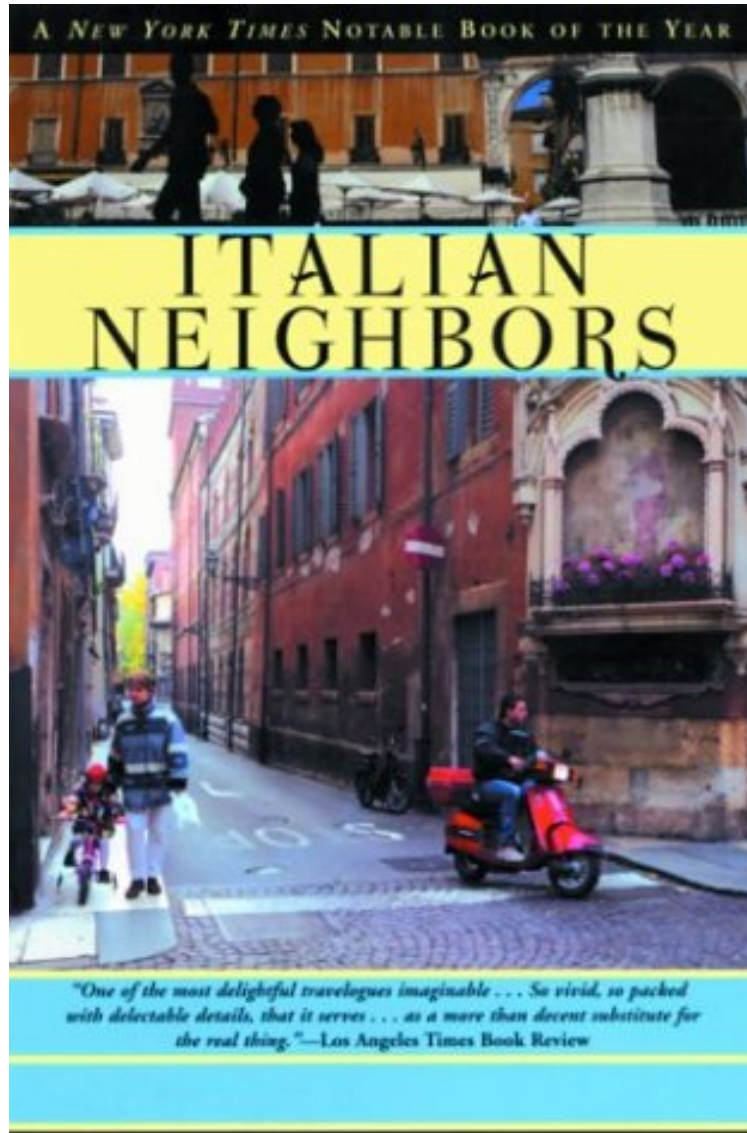


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Tim Parks : Italian Neighbors before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Italian Neighbors:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Italian Neighbors is my favorite book by the author so farBy EgleI am addicted to Tim Parks ever since I picked up his first book (Italian Ways) in a bookshop on a weekend trip to Rome last year. All in all, Italian Neighbors is my favorite book by the author so far. It has the charm of being the first book he wrote in his "my life in Italy" series. The style is simple, author's ability to savor and convey the Italian life

extraordinary. Read by someone today, it is also a recent enough time capsule which brings you to the Italy of the eighties: Italy before cell phones, Italy before decades of economic downhill, Italy before the angry generation of 30 somethings on temporary contracts. Italy where prosperity still feels recent. My favorite thing about Tim Parks is that he takes small and makes it big. In this book, he takes on one house with four apartments without any elaborated story line, and yet you feel that you have gained something very significant when you put the book down. My second favorite thing about Tim Parks is that he is pained by Italy and yet he absolutely loves it. What comes out as a result for me is a sense of wonder that I cannot resist. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Happy and Substantive Reading: A Tonic for the Imagination By Dr.G. It is not possible to come away from this book roaring with laughter, and a tonic for low spirits and a refreshing boost to the heart. A generally "happy," if quixotic and mirthful book, it contains much that is edifying about the Italian spirit and Italian way of life that we can profit from in our neurotic driven cultures. Yet, no civilization or culture is perfect, and we may intuit a sense of frustration, resignation, and sometimes cynical view of life exhibited in Italian culture and wring out hands at the foolish frustrations that Italians must endure. One may come away from this book wishing one were an Italian inhabiting those towns of ineffable beauty, but glad to be doing such daydreaming in countries that are less eccentric and less unorthodox--and a bit more pragmatic-- in political and civic matters. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A pleasant, undemanding escape to Northern Italy. By Caravaggio The book is a pleasant, easy, escapist read suitable for the armchair traveler (or armchair resident). Taking place in the small, ordinary town of Montecchio, nothing earth-shattering happens. But therein lies the pleasure of Tim Parks account. His is the story of ordinary people doing ordinary things that somehow seems more real and desirable than one might think. I liked it well enough to buy the authors subsequent book, *An Italian Education*, which I am reading now.

In this deliciously seductive account of an Italian neighborhood with a statue of the Virgin at one end of the street, a derelict bottle factory at the other, and a wealth of exotic flora and fauna in between, acclaimed novelist Tim Parks celebrates ten years of living with his wife, Rita, in Verona, Italy. Via Colombre, the main street in a village just outside Verona, offers an exemplary hodgepodge of all that is new and old in the *bel paese*, a point of collision between invading suburbia and diehard peasant tradition in a sometimes madcap, sometimes romantic always mixed-up world of creeping vines, stuccoed walls, shotguns, security cameras, hypochondria, and expensive sports cars. Tim Parks is anything but a gentleman in Verona. With an Italian-born wife, an Italian made family, and a whole Italian condominium bubbling around him, he collects a gallery full of splendid characters who initiate us into all the foibles and delights of life in provincial Italy. More than a travel book, *Italian Neighbors* is a sparkling, witty, beautifully observed tale of how the most curious people and places gradually assume the familiarity of home. *Italian Neighbors* is a rare work that manages to be both a portrait and an invitation for everyone who has ever dreamed about Italy.

"Most foreigners' books about Italy fall into one of two categories--chronicles of infatuation or diaries of disillusionment. It's rare to read one like *Italian Neighbors* that combines accuracy with affection, analysis with lyricism."