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The Civilized Shopper's Guide To Florence



Synopsis

Eight walks take shoppers to unique shops that uphold Italian standards of quality, craftsmanship, and creativity. With this discriminating book as a guide, visitors will find a trove of eighty shops that only native Florentines know well. In its pages you'll find exquisite handmade lingerie, jewelry inspired by Renaissance paintings, handcrafted leather boxes, beautifully tailored shirts for men and women, vintage French and Italian designer clothing, shoes, hats, gourmet items, and much, much more. The walks include forty dining recommendations from where to get a quick *caffè-cioch* (the best thing to ever happen to espresso, hot chocolate, and steamed milk) to a sumptuous Tuscan meal. The book also serves as an informative guide to often perplexing opening days and hours, the always perplexing street numbering system, and shopping etiquette.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Where do Florentines go to for the finest handmade shoes, leather gloves, jewellery inspired by Renaissance paintings, artisanal chocolates, exquisite lingerie, and more? This discriminating guide of eight walks will take you to shops of legendary quality and fine craftsmanship. Also featured are dozens of dining recommendations, from where to find *cioccolata da bere* ('drinkable chocolate') to a sumptuous meal served in a former convent." --Tuscany Unlimited
"The Civilized Shopper's Guide To Florence, by Louise Fili lists Santa Maria Novella, of course, and dozens of other fascinating places to buy handmade shoes, leather gloves, jewellery inspired by Renaissance paintings, exquisite lingerie and much more besides. The perfect companion for your next city break in

Tuscany." --The Mail on Sunday (UK)"Before we left on our trip (to Italy)...it was nice to be able to retreat quietly into...the handy little Civilized Shopper's Guide to Florence by Louise Fili (I saw a preview copy; this one is out in September). Fili also did the adorable design and photography. ...So by the time I actually stopped in at Florence's fascinating shop Bizarri (spices, extracts, and elixirs from around the world) I was excited and ready to just...go with it." --Barbara Fairchild, Editor-in-Chief, Bon Appetit"I think it's the best I've ever seen...It's tiny enough to fit in your purse and jam-packed with great information...This is the kind of shopping you hope for when you travel--the marvelous, unique, often handmade treasures, perfect for gifts or to indulge yourself--in a range of prices." --Paula Russell, co-founder and owner of Time of Your Life Tours"This small new York publisher is producing some of the most innovative, beautiful and rewarding guidebooks on the market." --Minneapolis Star Tribune"The Little Bookroom...wants travelers to slow down. They've carved themselves a niche in the over-crowded travel book industry by thinking small with titles that define the character of a city." --The Pittsburgh Tribune"For pocket-sized, covetable books, turn to The Little Bookroom." --Vogue [UK]

Louise Fili is a graphic designer specializing in logo, package, restaurant, type, and book design. She was art director of Pantheon Books from 1978 to 1989, where she designed more than 2000 book jackets. She has received awards from every major design competition, has taught and lectured on graphic design and typography, and her work is in the permanent collection of the Library of Congress, the Cooper Hewitt Museum, and the Bibliotheque Nationale. She was the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant, and is the co-author of 11 books on design. Fili was recently inducted into the Art Directors Hall of Fame.

Looking forward to my 5th trip to Florence shortly....i will take this excellent guide along, once again. You can understand the history and appreciate the wonderful artisans of this amazing place of discovery. 1) the guide is designed by "walking" sections of the city. I have spent a week or more each trip, so try to do at least 2 walks each visit. 2) Each walk offers readers a chance to experience shops, many of which are still run by descendants of the original owners hundreds of years before. You can see first hand how a craftsman works on making a leather box from the beginning using just a plain piece of leather. He will show you the tools, many of which were used by great, grandfather. Each walk offers suggestions for a stop to rest at a cafe and food shops, lovely bakeries, etc. 3) Other offerings are delightful children's shops, where you can still find beautiful hand made booties, christening gowns, and other baby items. 4) i would have missed amazing

antique shops, charming jewelry shops, which are quite small and another favorite....a small corner shop that just sells minatures made of pewter. 5) In the summer months i run a small Inn and found a sign maker and engraver not far from the Doumo. He did not speak English, and my Italian is only fair....but I got my lovely brass plate nicely engraved for 1/3 the price as it would have been in Canada, less then a month later, including shipping...it was a delightful experience, and look forward to many more discoveries as found in this guide. This is how to explore the city and meet the people. Don't leave home without it; when going visiting Florence, Italy.

Italy is still over a year away but Florence (Firenza for purists and Italianos) is at the top of our list of "must sees" and it's not too soon to be building a library of travel guides from which to choose before departure. Packable, yes! Packed with reliable information? Too soon to tell but well worth taking along to add to our experience and ease the frustrations of navigating a strange city. Passed on Florence on our last trip due to heat and crowds but, having dedicated (so far) months to the study of Renaissance art, wouldn't miss it for anything on our NEXT trip. Never too old to learn, as it turns out. :-)

I am going to Florence in March 2014 and have been preparing for months to take full advantage of my time there. I decided to purchase this little book (it fits in the palm of your hand) to make the most of my shopping time. I am not disappointed!!! It has great advice on places to shop, dine and sightsee. Great photos and simple organization make it a handy guide to all that IS Florence. Even the cover is indicative of its lovely interior. I highly recommend it if you are on your way to visit one of the most beautiful places on earth---Florence, Italy. A must have!!!!

This book is exquisite and a real keepsake. It is beautifully executed, and I love the size. I did take it with me to Florence, and visited one or two of the shops listed, but, unfortunately, could not find many of them (the reason I am only giving it 4 stars). I don't know how up-to-date it is. I must also add that most of these shops are very high end, and you would have to sell your firstborn to purchase anything in them. However, it was worth it for the quality of the book and the walks it has. It divides the city for you into sections. Again, a delightful keepsake.

what can I say. I love Florence. This book is really cool. Probably outdated now but still fun to look through.

I purchased this book in hardback form....something unusual for me. I always use my kindle but the book was very small and sturdy. It fit well into my luggage and was a great way to plan my excursions around Florence. It was also helpful in knowing which shoppes were open or closed on the days I could shop. Most shoppes were a bit expensive but for a new traveler to Italy it was very helpful.

I used this constantly on my last trip and have praised it to others. I lost my copy and was very happy to purchase another. The divisions into areas which include restaurants is fantastic. Don't let the older publishing date hold you back...the shops and eating places really don't change that much!

It's a cute little book. But the price was absurd.

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