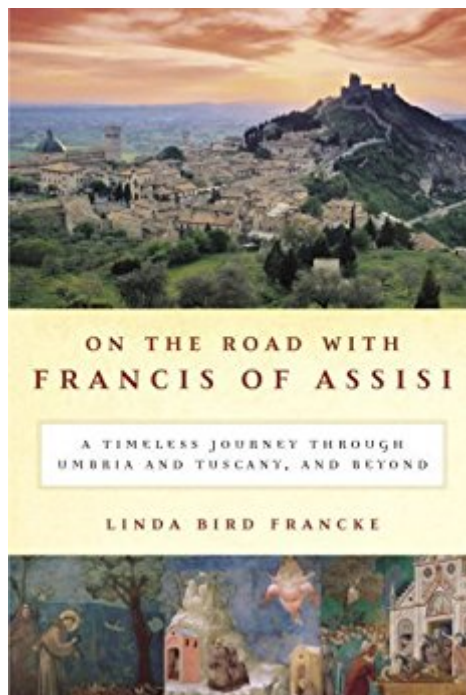


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On The Road With Francis Of Assisi: A Timeless Journey Through Umbria And Tuscany, And Beyond



Synopsis

On the Road with Francis of Assisi offers a unique and lively travelogue of parallel journeys: that of Francis of Assisi on his way to sainthood in the thirteenth century, and that of author Linda Bird Francke, who followed his path through the beauty of central and coastal Italy—and even on to Egypt. Francke tells the compelling story of Saint Francis through the many places he visited. She and her husband, Harvey Loomis, used as their guidebooks medieval texts, including the first official biography of the saint, completed in 1229, just three years after he died. Theirs was not a spiritual journey but one based on admiration for a man whose legend continues to inspire and fascinate millions around the world. From Assisi—a small Umbrian town that now draws two million visitors a year, making it second only to Rome as an Italian pilgrimage destination—Saint Francis crisscrossed Italy for twenty years. And so too does the author travel through the “green heart” of Italy to such hill towns and cities as Siena, Bologna, Venice, Gubbio, and Rome, and to the many mountaintop Franciscan sanctuaries from La Verna and Le Celle di Cortona in Tuscany to the Rieti Valley. Along the way, Francke movingly depicts the many miracles Francis performed and draws us into the splendid beauty of the landscape that inspired the saint’s love for nature and regard for all living things. Unlike Francis, however, whose asceticism caused him to add ashes to his food to deaden its earthly pleasure, Francke and her husband indulge in the fabled Umbrian cuisine, from wild boar to the region’s famed black truffles, and the incomparable local wines. On the Road with Francis of Assisi embraces the spirit and person of its legendary subject, and invites the reader to marvel at his spiritual intensity and follow in his footsteps through the timeless beauty of Italy. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

The author chose a refreshingly unusual "travelogue" approach to what was, for me, at its core, a deeply spiritual journey. Also appreciated her sensitivity to nuances of place, people, cuisine and "time past and passing"...

Interesting book. Not everything in it jives with the history of Francis that I have been taught by Franciscan scholars so I would suggest the reader not use this book as the be all and end all regarding Saint Francis's life and journeys. Primarily it gives the reader a sense of this area of Italy.

This is a marvelous book to read before and during one's trip to Assisi. A beautiful companion and travel log - sure to enrich your travels.

What a fabulous idea that Linda Francke had - combining an account of the life of the greatest Saint with a story of her own spiritual journey with a travel guide. A teacher in high school (a Jesuit) once told me that we don't all have to live like St. Francis, but we should all be willing to invite him into our busy lives occasionally and allow him to ask us some tough questions. This book is a pleasant and thought-provoking way to do just that.

GREAT

I'm reading in conjunction w/the bio of St. Francis - complements nicely.

A fascinating look into the life and wanderings of an interesting character in some of my personal favorite parts of Italy. Specialized reading for specialized interests. I have recently commissioned a

painting representing one aspect of the life of Francis of Assisi, and this book added greatly to my own and the artist's understanding of the man.

The book was in a bad condition when I got it. A cheap library book....

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