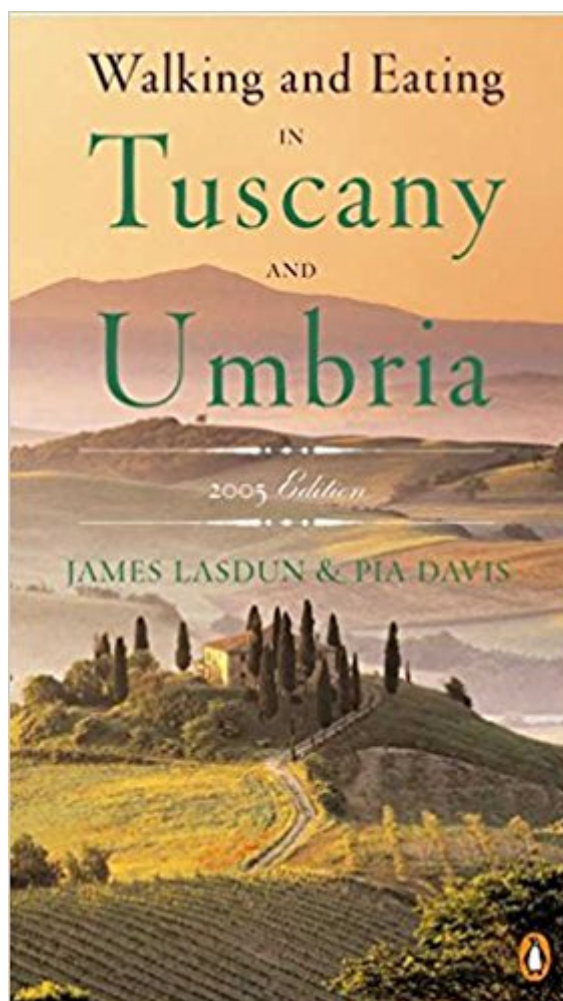


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Walking And Eating In Tuscany And Umbria, Revised Edition



Synopsis

THIS BOOK, NOW THOROUGHLY REVISED AND UPDATED, IS WRITTEN TO SATISFY READERS WHO WANT TO BUILD THEIR HOLIDAY AROUND WALKING, OR THOSE WHO SIMPLY WANT TO INTEGRATE A BIT OF WALKING INTO THEIR HOLIDAY. IT BEGINS WITH A "PRACTICALITIES" SECTION AND EXTEND INTO THE WALKS THEMSELVES. FROM SIX OR SO "BASE TOWNS," THE AUTHORS OFFER ROUTES OF ONE OR TWO HOURS, HALF DAY, AND ONE, THREE, AND FIVE DAYS. THERE ARE ALSO SOME EXTRAORDINARY WALKS WORTH GOING OUT OF THE WAY FOR. THERE ARE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESTAURANTS, TRATTORIAS AND PIZZERIAS, AS WELL AS MARKETS AND OTHER TAKE-AWAY OPTIONS. ADDITIONALLY, THE BOOK INCLUDES SUGGESTIONS FOR LODGING, TRANSPORTATION, FLORA AND MANY OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST.

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Customer Reviews

Tuscany and Umbria are famous for both their glorious scenery and their superlative cuisines--could there be a more perfect vacation than walking through the countryside, stopping to dine along the way? In *Walking and Eating in Tuscany and Umbria* authors James Lasdun and Pia Davis offer readers 40 itineraries ranging from half-day walks to routes stretching over several days. There are written directions for each walk as well as a map. There is also a chart for each itinerary outlining travel alternatives such as buses, trains, or private automobiles and a list of restaurants along the way. Each itinerary describes the sights and terrain in charming detail, and though you might want to supplement this book with other guides specific to each area, this one does a nice job of

balancing the demands of cuisine and countryside in a single volume. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

JAMES LASDUN IS THE AUTHOR OF TWO COLLECTIONS OF SHORT STORIES AND TWO BOOKS OF POETRY. HIS WORK HAS APPEARED IN THE NEW YORKER, PARIS REVIEW AND THE LITERARY TIMES SUPPLEMENT. PIA DAVIS'S FICTION HAS APPEARED IN PEQUOD AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS, AND SHE RECENTLY COMPLETED A NOVEL. THEY LIVE IN WOODSTOCK, NEW YORK.

This review is for the Kindle edition of this book only. I thought it would be easier to add a supplemental guidebook of the region as an e-version to avoid carrying another heavy paper book on my trip. Avoid this one. It has not been conceptualized as an e-book, just mechanically translated into this format. For example, the book constantly refers reader to page numbers in different section for more detailed reading, but the e-book does not have page numbers. The table of contents which lists the walks is not an official "chapter" so it can not be found without scrolling through every page of the document (which would not be so difficult if it was at the beginning, but alas it is not.) But, most maddeningly and confusingly, the maps -- key to the success of anyone trying to actually do the walks, are spread across multiple e-pages so it is impossible to follow a route as a whole.

I planned a walking trip to Umbria and Tuscany based on this excellent and thorough guidebook. My wife and I and three other couples, all friends and all in our 50's and 60's, spent two weeks in May of 2000 walking three of the itineraries in Umbria and seven in Tuscany. The experience was, arguably, the most satisfying vacation any of us has ever made. Fields of red poppies, yellow buttercups, and a vibrant bouquet of many other flowering plants and trees colored our surroundings. The book guided us through dramatically changing scenes from stately vineyards, to deep woods, to beautiful medieval and renaissance villages, towns, and abbeys, to mountain pastures and fields of flowers, and to a procession of stunning views. Walking gave our encounters with the places and people of our trip an exhilarating immediacy and intimacy that we would have otherwise missed. Buy the book, make the trip, do the walks, and be entranced. (The Lamole and the San Michele to Radda walks need updating because of property and road changes, but you can still find your way.)

If you are planning a trip to Florence and Tuscany and you enjoy walking and exploring this is a handy guide. While at home in south Florida, it has helped to bring back memories of my travels

through Tuscany and my time in Florence. It will accompany me on my next trip to Tuscany.

We just did 6 days & 48 miles starting at Mt Olive Abbey near Montalcino, St Atina, Bagno Vincono, Siena & Montepulciano. Foreground country, but March 1 is too early, but we certainly beat the crowds. There are some places you really need their excellent directions in the book, & it's great to plan your trip. But the Italian hiking club has marked & re-routed a few trails, & the GPS on an iPhone with the Gai-open space maps is invaluable.

Great information, the trails have detailed descriptions that are very helpful - and are tastefully selected. I wish there had been more trails that took us through small towns and not just wilderness, but that might have just been our luck in the ones we chose to walk on. That's the only reason I'm not giving this book 5 stars. Overall, I totally recommend. The countryside is gorgeous, and the trails in this book take you to the best of the towns.

Whenever I tell my friends that my wife and I just spent a week hiking through Tuscany, they exclaim, "That's my dream vacation." This is the book that makes it possible, even if, like us, you don't speak a word of Italian and were never in Italy before. The authors describe 40 different walks, from 1/2 day walks near Florence to walks, that strung together, can occupy a week or more of your time. The trail descriptions are precise and easy to follow, but the book is much more than that. It's a practical, how-to guide that enables you to just go off and "do it." Great restaurant suggestions (of course), places to stay, tips on how to navigate the bus and train systems, which tourist offices are helpful, with phone numbers, and snail and e-mail addresses. It was our Bible in Italy. Buy this book so the authors will be encouraged to write more.

The title is a little misleading. Lots of great walks in Tuscany; very few in Umbria.

Very good if read from the beginning so as to understand the authors' methods of all descriptions.

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