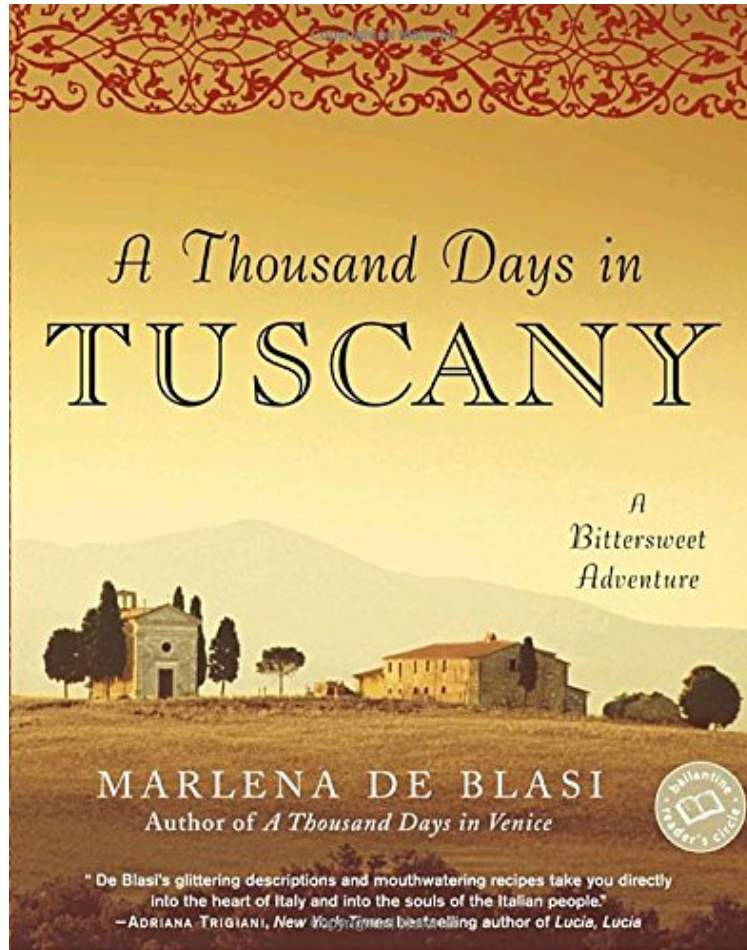


A Thousand Days in Tuscany: A Bittersweet Adventure

Marlena de Blasi

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Marlena de Blasi : A Thousand Days in Tuscany: A Bittersweet Adventure before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Thousand Days in Tuscany: A Bittersweet Adventure:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Restoring the soul: loving, friendship, and feasting in a Tuscan village By L. Martin An American journalist and chef extraordinaire moves into a small Tuscan village with her Venetian banker husband after a few years of marriage. Both are seeking a romanticized bucolic past that the old village sage says no longer exists. Living in a rustic renovated stable, Chou and Fernando are captivated by the scents, sounds, and sights of Tuscany and quickly blend into life in their village. There they share recipes, cooking, feasting, foraging the hills and woods for wild delicacies, and build an outside oven to bake bread and fire-pit for roasting. Barlozzo, the enigmatic sage, takes them under his wing and relishes their apt attention as he relates village history and arranges their participation in local activities such as grape picking and stomping, finding wild mushrooms, harvesting olives, and festivals. The bittersweet part comes through Fernando's flair for Italian operatic drama,

questioning their decision to leave Venice. Barlozzo has secrets that eat at his heart, finally revealed through the terminal illness of his long-time beloved who had married another. There is yearning for times past that can only be tasted briefly, yet the flavor of village life fills and satisfies them. Cooking and eating are the heart of Tuscany, and this book brings an intense, colorful experience with mouth-watering recipes. Delightful, reflective, philosophical, and charming story based on the authors' life.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Thousand Days in Tuscany. By Carla E Boyle Extremely tedious and boring. If she wants to write a cook book, then write one! Too many metaphors and disjointed descriptions. I managed to get about 1/4 of the way through and gave up. I had read "A Thousand Days in Venice" which was not fantastic but had enough to encourage me to read this one. Mistake!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... (Bologna) for a number of years and spent a great deal of time in Tuscany towns so I was ... By susan schroeder I lived in Northern Italy (Bologna) for a number of years and spent a great deal of time in Tuscany towns so I was transported back to Italy and read the book very slowly -- a chapter or so at night before I went to sleep so that I would have lovely (refreshed by the book) memories to put me to sleep. I had also read A Thousand Days in Venice as well as I also spent a great deal of time in Venice while living in Italy. Thank you, Ms. deBlasi for reviving many lovely memories. When you have been able to make life long friends in Italy they remain just that - life long friends! Your descriptions of living in Italy are just the best - both of the landscape and of the people. I hope you write more books based on your life in Italy.

They had met and married on perilously short acquaintance, she an American chef and food writer, he a Venetian banker. Now they were taking another audacious leap, unstitching their ties with exquisite Venice to live in a roughly renovated stable in Tuscany. Once again, it was love at first sight. Love for the timeless countryside and the ancient village of San Casciano dei Bagni, for the local vintage and the magnificent cooking, for the Tuscan sky and the friendly church bells. Love especially for old Barlozzo, the village mago, who escorts the newcomers to Tuscany's seasonal festivals; gives them roasted country bread drizzled with just-pressed olive oil; invites them to gather chestnuts, harvest grapes, hunt truffles; and teaches them to caress the simple pleasures of each precious day. It's Barlozzo who guides them across the minefields of village history and into the warm and fiercely beating heart of love itself. A Thousand Days in Tuscany is set in one of the most beautiful places on earth and tucked into its fragrant corners are luscious recipes (including one for the only true bruschetta) directly from the authors' private collection.

From Publishers Weekly From its opening scene of an impromptu alfresco village feast of fried zucchini blossoms, fennel-roasted pork, and pudding made from the cream of a local blue-eyed cow, this memoir of the seasons in a small Tuscan village is rich with food, weather, romance and, above all, life. De Blasi continues the adventures begun in her A Thousand Days in Venice, as she and her husband, Fernando, leave Venice for Tuscany in search of "a place that still remembers real life... sweet and salty... each side of life dignifying the other." Fortunately, the two are adopted by Barlozzo, an elderly local eager to share his knowledge of the old ways. He introduces them to the local customs: grape harvesting, truffle hunting, bread baking, etc. Although the book teems with food references, including recipes for intriguing traditional dishes, de Blasi is more than a sunny regional food writer; she digs into the meaning of life. As she fights Fernando's periodic depressions and brings him back to joy, gains Barlozzo's trust and love, learns his troubling lifelong secrets and comes to terms with the death of a beloved friend, she immerses her readers in life's poignancy, brevity and wonder. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist Readers who enjoyed de Blasi's earlier work, A Thousand Days in Venice (2002), may be startled that the author has moved from Venice to Tuscany. Still much in love with the man for whom she left everything, de Blasi embarks on an idyllic, if hardworking, Tuscan life. The couple purchases an old farmhouse and is chagrined that it's not conveyed in the condition promised. Their neighbors welcome them to the community with a groaning board featuring all manner of Tuscan foods and capped off with a dessert that only hours earlier had been milked from a "blue-eyed" cow. As in her earlier work, most chapters close with recipes, ranging in complexity from braised pork stew that serves as both a pasta sauce and an entree to simple bruschetta, toasted bread topped with local olive oil. Thanks to de Blasi's style of rendering conversations first in Italian, then English, a careful reader can quickly pick up some useful conversational Italian. Mark Knoblauch Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. De Blasi's glittering descriptions and mouthwatering recipes take you directly into the heart of Italy and into the souls of the Italian people. Adriana Trigiani, New York Times bestselling author of Lucia, Lucia Filled with warmth and the rich and simple drama of a beautiful life. The evocation of country dishes is mouthwatering, the lyrical beauty irresistible. Susan Herrmann Loomis, author of On Rue Tatin: Living and Cooking in a French Town A love poem to de Blasi's professional life as a chef. USA Today Rich with food, weather, romance, and, above all, life . . . [De Blasi] immerses her readers in life's poignancy, brevity, and wonder. Publishers Weekly