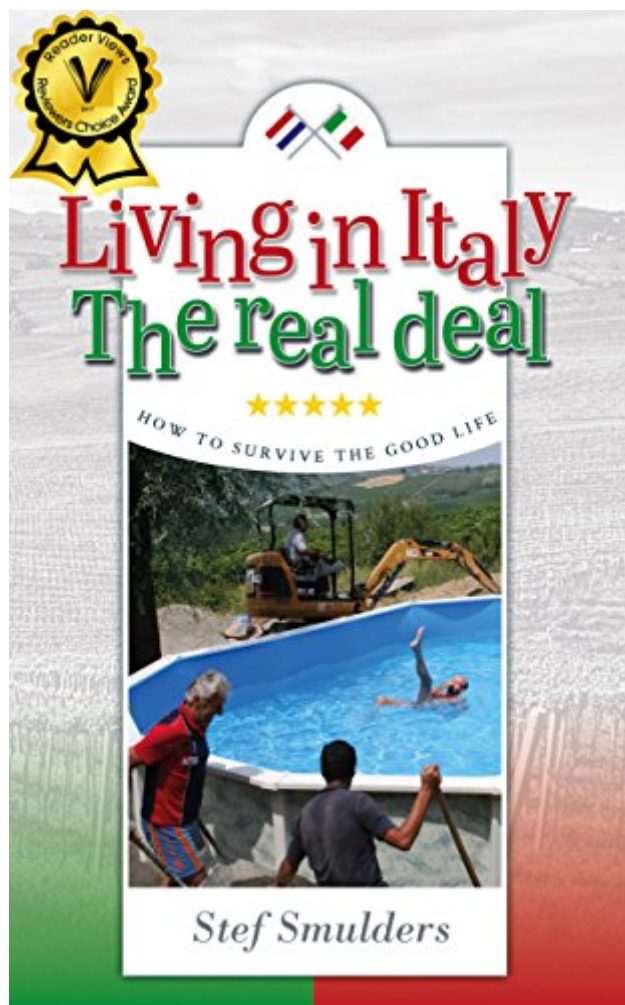


The book was found

Living In Italy: The Real Deal. Hilarious Expat Adventures Of A Couple Intent On Living Their Dream Life. But Then Things Went Horribly Wrong! "Laugh Out Loud Page Turner"





Synopsis

Living in Italy: How to Survive – La Dolce Vita – A hilarious & horrendous adventures of two Dutchmen and their dog – who moved to Italy to start a bed and breakfast in the hills amidst the vineyards of an unknown wine region south of Milan. – Glossary of Italian words included!

Read the Award Winning Bestseller: Reader Views 2016/17 Literary Awards Winner Eric Hoffer Award Finalist 2017 ELIT Award Winner Travel category New York & Amsterdam Book Festival Honourable

Mentions: 4.4
Average Customer Review (100+ reviews): "a comical, often downright hilarious account"

Reader's Favorite Review

"Smulders' storytelling artistry is wildly entertaining" Blogcritics/Reader Views

"Stef Smulders ... does what a good writer does: He writes what he observes and leaves the judgement to you, the reader. No constant bellyaching from Mr. Smulders. I like that. I really like that." James Martin, Italy expert, wanderingitaly.com "Fantastico! I am a tough critic and have nothing but kudos for this book. Buy this book!!" Elliana on "There is more of the flavor of Italy in this book than in ... Frances Mayes's 'Under the Tuscan Sun';" review by Grady Harp HALL OF FAME TOP 100 "now I can add Stef Smulders to the list of my favorite ex-pat authors" N.N. LightSummary: In 2008 Stef Smulders, his partner Nico and their dog Saar emigrated to Italy to start a new life and set up their B&B Villa I Due Padroni. They sold their home, left their friends and family behind and took a leap into the unknown. Now Stef shares his experiences in a collection of witty short stories. The book treats the trials and tribulations of an emigration. The reader is introduced to a full range of Italian characters, from the trustworthy to the rogue, from the gentle to the shameless, flesh and blood Italians. Some are stereotype, others unexpectedly original. Yet they never fail to amuse and entertain. "Lovers of Michelle Damiani's 'Il Bel Centro,' Katherine Wilson's 'Only in Naples' Tim Parks's 'Italian Ways' Frances Mayes's 'Under the Tuscan Sun' will love this book as well! Readers' reviews: 'I was hooked' 'Couldn't put the book down' 'What a fantastic read!' 'Hilarious!' 'Addicting!' 'Recommended!'

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Becoming an ex-pat always has its challenges, but Dutch author Stef Smulders and his partner faced more than their fair share of complications in their move to northern Italy. Most travelers are charmed by Italy; who can resist the fabulous food, love affair with wine, picturesque villages, and enthusiasm for life that typifies Italians? But emigrating there and starting a B&B business is another story. Smulders tells that story with wit and humor, demonstrating more patience and tolerance for unrelenting bureaucracy, changing requirements, irresponsible contractors, nosy neighbors, and promises reneged than seems humanly possible. The writing style is contained and the stories seem to end abruptly. Chapters are very short and left me feeling the action was incomplete. Each chapter relates their experiences with a different person or aspect of getting the house renovated, with short episodes while Stef was in school, and in Holland selling their home prior to the move. It felt a bit disjointed. Descriptions of food, cooking, village gatherings and characters, and the countryside provided a nice visual reading experience. Overall, an entertaining and informative book that anyone considering a move to Italy should read.

I very much enjoy this genre and read quite a few on the subject, love Italy and loved every chapter

of Stef Smulders odyssey about their tribulations and joy of a great adventure which happily turned into their new Home ... written well, with plenty of humor as well as great insight over the Italian way of life! I couldn't wait to see what the next chapter would reveal! I'm waiting for the sequel, Stef! (big smile)

What a delight this book was to read! It's the story of 2 Dutchmen, Stef and his husband Nico and their dog emigrating to Italy to open their B & B, Villa Due Padroni in the Pavia area. It's down to earth with the realistic stories of their trials with the bureaucracy that are resolved in true Italian fashion. The characters are all people you can identify with, Torti the dictator, is the one that I found to be the most amusing, but can't leave out mention of the shady real estate agent, the crazy neighbors, the owners and staff of the wineries, all charming in their own ways. I loved the ravioli story in particular. Makes me want lessons from Lena. We come to know Stef quite well, but I wish more of Nico's personality came out in the book. I really enjoyed Stef's writing style, it was as though I read short stories from his individual style, but he brings it all together so well that it also seems like a book. At the end a link is provided for the B & B, make sure to look it up and see what a beautiful villa it is and like myself, be tempted to book a trip to Italy and enjoy the beautiful B & B and area that they are living in. Thank you for the goodreads giveaway book Stef. I will think back on it often.

I picked up this book in January, read it in two days and shamefully did not post a review. I thoroughly enjoyed the story of Stef and Nico. The story starts with visiting for school but almost immediately Italy grabs hold of their hearts. Once that happened, they had no chance but to accept they would soon become a part of Italy. House hunting, renovating, the personal interactions with people local to the commune and developing friendships was fascinating, in that it didn't happen in a fairy tale, but in real life, and I felt each developing story line in my heart. I ended the book thinking two things: When will we get to experience the next chapter in this story and when would be a good time to stop by with some good wine, some good food...and maybe a print copy of the book for a personal autograph:> Ciao. Buona giornata! Anno fantastico!

Excellent. Having lived in Rome for four years I can identify with his experience. Accurate depiction of the characters, their attitudes, their excuses I only wish that the facial expressions and arm and shoulder shrugs could have been shown. Loved the book!.

I very much enjoyed this book. It is well written and very entertaining as well as informative. I hope to visit Italy and maybe stay at this B&B. I especially appreciate the Italian/English glossary at the end of the book!!

I won this book from Goodreads...and at first, I felt there was too much detail (like the naming of lots of houses in one paragraph). However, as I delved into the book, I found it hilarious...AND informative! I quickly decided that I don't want to live in Italy, in spite of having visited twice and loved it. All the bureaucratic nonsense the author and his partner endured would drive me up the wall! But, in the end, it seems to have all come together for them...their house is beautiful, the surroundings can't be beat...and I very well may visit one day!

This was a fun read - any expat in Italy can easily relate to the perils of buying and restoring a home. So many laughable quirks and frustrating lessons in patience. I enjoyed reading about this couple's adventures of relocation!

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