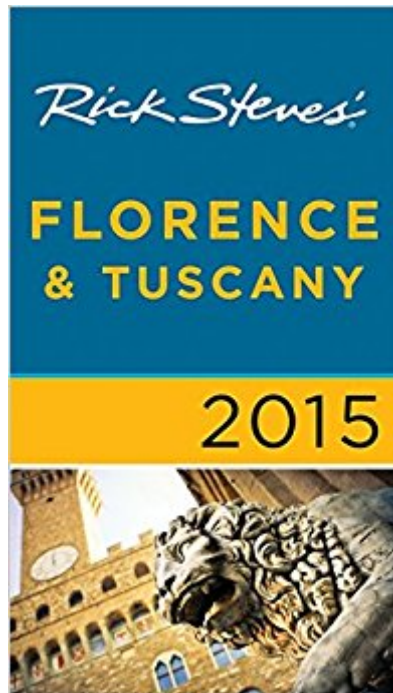




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# Rick Steves Florence & Tuscany 2015



## Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when traveling through Florence and Tuscany. With the self-guided tours in this book, you'll discover the geographic heart of Italy. Take the Renaissance Walk and tour the Uffizi Gallery to learn how Florence taught civilized living to the rest of Europe. Wander through the medieval city of Siena and find out what Pisa has to offer beyond the Leaning Tower. Relax in sunny Tuscan hill towns where you'll enjoy full-bodied wine, the world's best gelato, and the company of friendly locals. Rick's candid, humorous advice will guide you to good-value hotels and restaurants. You'll learn how to get around by train, bus, or rental car and get up-to-date advice on what's worth your time and money. More than just reviews and directions, a Rick Steves guidebook is a tour guide in your pocket.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rick Steves has spent 100 days every year since 1973 exploring Europe. Rick produces a public television series (Rick Steves' Europe), a public radio show (Travel with Rick Steves), and an app and podcast (Rick Steves Audio Europe); writes a bestselling series of guidebooks and a nationally syndicated newspaper column; organizes guided tours that take thousands of travelers to Europe annually; and offers an information-packed website (RickSteves.com). With the help of his hardworking staff of 80 at Rick Steves' Europe, Inc., in Edmonds, Washington, just north of Seattle; Rick's mission is to make European travel fun, affordable, and culturally broadening

for Americans. Gene Openshaw is a writer, composer, tour guide, and lecturer on art and history. Specializing in writing walking tours of Europe's cultural sights, Gene has coauthored 10 of Rick's books and contributes to Rick's public television series. As a composer, Gene has written a full-length opera (Matter), a violin sonata, and dozens of songs. He lives near Seattle with his daughter, and roots for the Mariners in good times and bad.

Mandatory reading before and during a trip to Florence, Italy. This guy obviously is an insider and has done a lot of research into making your stay a memorable one. I especially loved his down-to-earth commentaries on the art that most first time- visitors want to see. Steve is knowledgeable, funny and savvy about one of the most complicated places you will ever experience.

Great guide book - everything you need to make your trip wonderful. I like the suggested itinerary and how he explains exactly how and when to get tickets museums and other attractions. Also, included are maps and how to get to places and suggested walking tours of the towns/cities. Off the beaten path finds that you wouldn't know about otherwise. In addition, has suggested sleeping and eating at different price ranges with tips of the different parts of town. I also like that included is a bit of the history of the places. Another thing that was helpful is the rating of the sites and attractions from don't miss to worth mentioning, which is real helpful if you have limited time. I've used his guide books on other trips to Europe without fail -- looking to this one!

Loved it! Besotted! My highest recommendation...I'm writing a novel, and the info is perfetto, per favore! E Italiano mio e' moltissimo "lousy" but con Latinum meum in gratiam, ad Dominum Federicum Wheelock, 1969), Feliciter! E andiamo a Toscana, si? Through his book and TV shows, I know we'll find the best food in the world. It was, after all, a de' Medici bride whose Fiorentino cooks taught the French cooks to prepare dishes with panache. They'd still be boiling everything to mush, had this not happened, eh? I'm so thrilled con questa il libro, eBook, I'm bringing it (via Mac) to Firenze, Siena, Ravenna, Pisa, et aliis, for our Febbraio 2016 trip. I'd INVITE Rick to join with us, since we're a lively little group of Baby Boomers (who celebrate life, but also take the time to read and to think and to talk with the people we meet), and toward the end of our visit, we shall drive to the tiny medieval city called Mirandola (near Modena), in the northern Emilian area. But Mr. Steve is no doubt very busy on those days in February 2016, when we'll all be variously meeting up in Italia. And that's OK; he'll be with us in spirito. I'll personally raise my cup of Chianti Classico to

him...and we look forward to some spicy wild boar sausage. ;-)(I also ordered Rick Steves' full set of Italian DVDs - from PBS-TV, where I paid more, but they **\*\*need\*\*** the contributions more desperately - and I'm bringing those along, too...though it means lugging my external disk drive....Anyway, **\*\*Rick Steves,\*\*** if you just happen to READ this, give a Shout Out.BTW: Our trip to Mirandola is a sort of "pilgrimage" to the birthplace of Giovanni Pico della Mirandola; the city was almost destroyed by earthquakes in 2012-3, and they can really use some help, there. If Rick can contact Centro Pico, Dr. Gianpaolo Ziroldi, use the 2nd phone # under "Contacts" (il primo gets you answers like: "Centro Pico e' finito," which isn't true - it was only their HQs that collapsed; just leave voicemail - I bet you'll become their next Local Hero!No kidding....And to think we'll be in Firenze for the 50th anniversary of the terrible floods. In 1970, at San Miniato, I met a young British art student who had been in that city, 1966, trying to save the art. And he told me he had been present when they raised the broken bits of Cimabue's irreplaceable "Crucifixion" out of the sludge. He said: "Grown men wept to see this..." Gone is gone. And as evil persons try to destroy our very Human Heritage, it is worth remembering: Nature, herself can, within an instant, wipe up anything and everything in her path.But the words of G. Pico are equally true:~|~|~|Let us also imitate the holy agreement of the world, so that we may be One together, in mutual Love....~|~|~| - Conclusion, Heptaplus, or Discourse on the Seven Days of Creation, 1489, Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, translated from the Latin by Jessie Brewer McGaw, 1977.We build our relationships with this World, person by person, and soul by soul. This is as true today as it was in the late 15th C., when a brash 20-year old Humanist Philosopher, working for il Magnifico, Lorenzo de' Medici, wrote his "Oration on the Dignity of Man" - still considered THE manifesto of the European Renaissance.And like Mr. Steves, Giovanni Pico did a great deal of his writing in Firenze....

Rick Steve's books are the best travel guides I've ever used. For most sights that he recommends, he gives a page by page description that you can read as you walk through that is as good or better than the audio guides. A definite must for travelers.

Another great Rick Steve's Travel Guide. I did not realize the small books have the same info as the Italy Book which is apparently all encompassing. I bought several of the smaller guides but already had the larger one. Only reason to buy this is if this is a newer version. Now I know better. They are smaller so if you are only going to a specific area, they are good, otherwise buy the newest full version of the country that you can since you don't want to carry all of these books along with you when you fly half way across the world.

My wife and I used this on vacation and found it very useful. Lots of great tips and history that we would have not known as we wandered Florence. The practical advice on some of the less famous sites was priceless, some of the small museums and churches we only found because of the guide were trip highlights.

I am an airline CEO and never travel to Europe without Rick Steve's guides. His light-handed commentary is spot on - right down to where the WC's are located in museums. We used the guide for hotels, restaurants and attractions and were equally pleased between them.

Loved this resource. Amazing. We bought this book along with the Pocket Venice for our trip to Italy. I know that our trip was as amazing as it was in large part to this book. We loved the walking tours through the cities. The turn by turn directions were perfect and really helped us to see the beauty of the places that we were touring rather than just aimlessly wandering. We used the audio tours a few times too, but also just enjoyed reading. We would find ourselves laughing in a museum where everyone else listening to the boring audio tour was just plodding along. These will now be my go-to resources for any tour of Europe. Can't say enough good things about it!

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