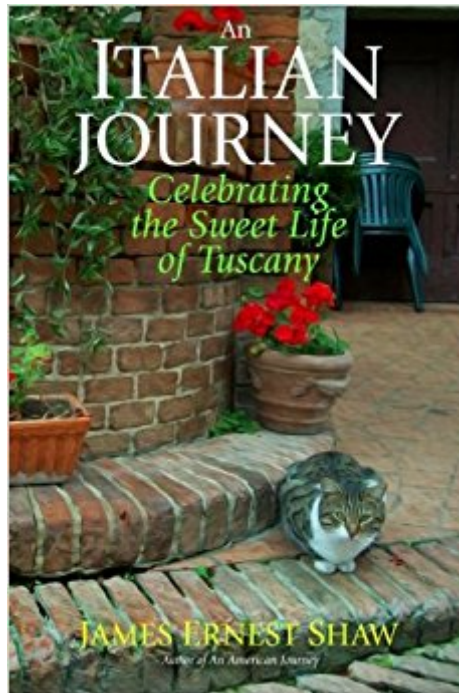




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# AN ITALIAN JOURNEY Celebrating The Sweet Life Of Tuscany



## Synopsis

A celebration of the Italian spirit! This edition of *AN ITALIAN JOURNEY* includes over forty beautiful photographs of the gorgeous Tuscan countryside. The story begins with a girl. Then it was Italian food. After that it was books and discovering that even Mark Twain had fallen for Italy. E.M. Forster was smitten too: Love and understand the Italians, for the people are more marvelous than the land. *WHAT IS IT ABOUT ITALY AND ITALIANS?* Italian movies immortalize the mystique. Fellini called it *La Dolce Vita*. Tornatore's *Cinema Paradiso* took James Shaw back to the sweet memories of his childhood and the Italian family who operated the hometown theater. And just like in the movie, young James had an Alfredo who, by example, taught him about serving people. James learned that Italians don't feel they're special. Luigi Barzini, author of *The Italians*, repeatedly asked, *Why are we the way we are?* and found no conclusive answer. But James was convinced there was a reason why the Renaissance was born in Tuscany and Italy has given the world Saint Francis, Michelangelo, da Vinci, Galileo and now Benigni, whose film *Life Is Beautiful* showed the world that the Italian zest for living can even make a heaven of a hell. And so, after a lifetime of thinking about Italy James became convinced that the way to find out why Italians are the way they are, would be to eat with them at their kitchen tables. Day after day he picked their olives and the Italians began treating him like family. And James began seeing their unique human quality that attracts people to Italy and keeps pulling them back again and again. But the story doesn't end in the olive groves of Tuscany. To discover the heart of Italian life, James had to travel back to World War II Italy. *An Italian Journey* will inspire you to follow your passions, your enthusiasms, to your own Beautiful Discoveries. **BELLA SCOPERTA!**

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

James Ernest Shaw lives and writes from small-town America, in the heart of what John Steinbeck called "the prettiest state I ever saw." He and his wife Mardi divide their time between their five children and their eight grandchildren. He is the author of two other books. *AN AMERICAN JOURNEY: Travels with Friday in Search of American and Americans* and *AN ITALIAN JOURNEY: A Harvest of Revelations in Olive Groves of Tuscany*. Celebrating the Sweet Life of Tuscany tells the story of the original *AN ITALIAN JOURNEY*, but with an emphasis on the Sweet Life of Italians. The luscious color photographs of the beautiful Tuscan countryside will leave you dreaming of your own Italian journey.

Loved it! Mr. Shaw's adventure makes one want to drop everything and take that trip to Italy we often put off until 'someday'. Thank you for the opportunity to see Italy through your eyes. An absolutely wonderful read!

Having been to Italy for the first time only a few months ago, Shaw has perfectly described the mystery of the Italian people. I so very much hope to return to Italy again and absorb even more of the beauty and hospitality of its people.

J. E. Shaw undertakes to learn the Italian language and farming traditions in Tuscany by working as a hired hand for room and board. His bicycle is his main mode of transportation. His descriptions of people and places are rich and full of local color. This book makes traveling to Tuscany to pick olives the old fashioned way in November quite appealing.

Great book. These are good prices, quick ship!

I expected more for the price, especially for a paperback. The photos were ok. Basically, it was a traveler documenting his experiences in Tuscany. If had little to go with a journey, a lot to do with a stay with a family.

Very good book but extremely overpriced. I expected it to be a beautiful hard bound book for \$40 and it is just a paperback. Can't justify the price at all.

Loved this book....a must read for anyone who has dreamed or has visited Italy!!! Mr. Shaw's writing

has you go along with him on a Wonderful Journey!!

Fabulous story! Passing it on for others to read!

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