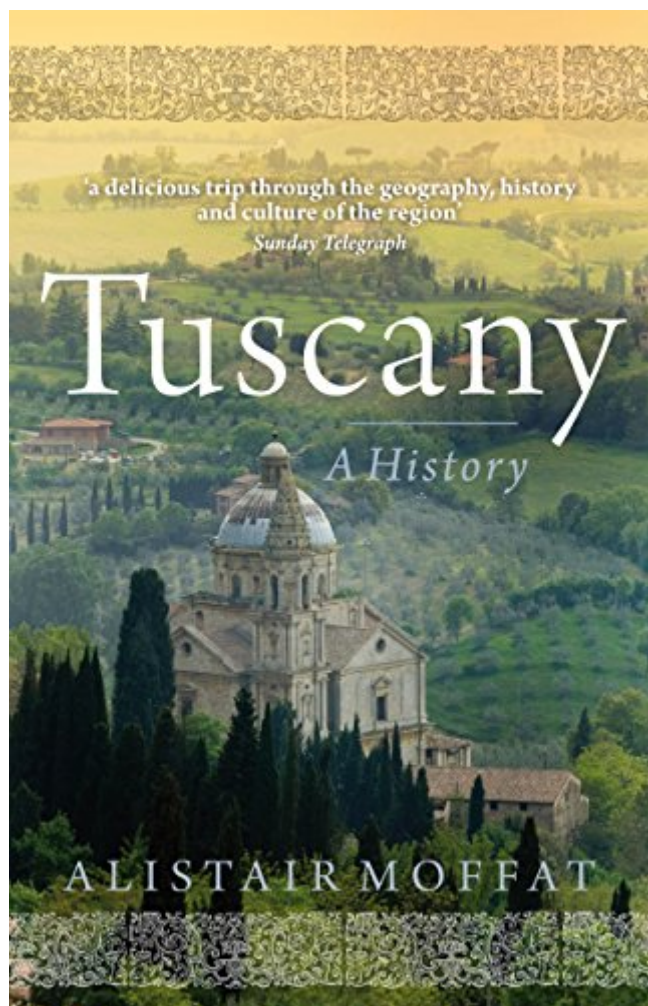


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Tuscany: A History



Synopsis

Ever since the days of the Grand Tour, Tuscany has cast its spell over the British. Attracted by the perfect combination of history, art, architecture, superb natural beauty and weather – not to mention magnificent traditions of food and drink – British visitors and residents have been at times so numerous that the local word for foreigners was simply 'gli inglesi' – 'the English'. Currently over 10,000 Britons live there, not to mention the huge numbers who travel there for holidays. What is it that makes this exquisite part of Italy so seductive? To answer this question Alistair Moffat embarks on a journey into Tuscany's past. From the flowering of the Etruscan civilization in the seventh century BC through the rise of the powerful medieval communes of Arezzo, Luca, Pisa and Florence, and the role the area played as the birthplace of the Renaissance, he underlines both the area's regional uniqueness as well as the vital role it has played in the history of the whole of Italy. Insightful, readable and imbued with the author's own enthusiasm for Tuscany, this book includes a wealth of information not found in tourist guides, and is the only modern history of the area available in English.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Note: I purchased the Kindle version. And it is very nicely formatted to my iPad Air2 Kindle app and also reads well on my Samsung Galaxy S6. Moffat does a brilliant job of putting a lot of history onto paper but keeping it interesting. This is also a broad history of the entire region since Tuscany was an economically important region throughout history. The reader learns about the Etruscans, about World War 2 bombing raids, about the rise and fall of Rome, and the power of the Tuscan city states. It is well worth reading if you are interested in the history of the region - especially if you are planning a visit.

You can pick this up and read a small section, contemplate the history and culture, and then let it percolate through your brain for a while before returning to explore another section. The usual information is here, but detailed explorations of each period of the peninsula's history are included. This deeper exploration brings the history into focus and allows the reader to appreciate the diversity and cultures more completely. Read this book if you have been there and want to understand more than your tour guide could provide.

I started reading during this book the night I arrived on my second visit to the region. My only regret was that I hadn't before I began my first visit. It covers the history of the region since time immemorial, describing what life was like in the region since long before the Romans right through to Mussolini. Tuscany is a place of singular beauty, and one need not know anything more than what your eye perceives but when you understand the history, what makes the Tuscan people, why the place was host to the rebirth of the West after the Dark Ages, then you can appreciate Tuscany to the fullest. I will be rereading this book again before my next holiday next Spring.

This was purchased as a gift for my mother, a long time fan of British literature, and TV and cinema derived thereof. Italy (especially Tuscany) inevitably comes up as a setting, and it was part of the Grand Tour of English nobles in the past. Moffat gives his usual chatty travelogue presentation, punctuated by scenic descriptions and fun details about local people and events. Recommended for that person in your life who has to watch every costume drama on BBC America or PBS.

Excellent general history of Tuscany, but it could be much enriched in the area of maps, both general and local, city scale.

Great history of Tuscany and its influence over Italy.

I recently completed a guided tour of Tuscany, wish I had read this before leaving. This book explains, at least in part, some of the things we saw; personalities, geography, politics. A very good read.

Easy to read informative and well written. Perfect for someone wanting a not too complex introduction to an area that has an incredibly complex history.

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