



The Wisdom of Tuscany: Simplicity, Security & the Good Life - Making the Tuscan Lifestyle Your Own

Ferenc Máté

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Ferenc Máté has lived in Tuscany for twenty years. Through personal experience and anecdotal history he explores the sources of this idyllic existence, which provides continuous economic stability, physical and emotional security, and a fortifying sense of belonging. From their organic gardens to their mouthwatering cuisine, from high-quality, craftsmen-made products and family-run businesses, to the joys centered in human contact and community, Tuscans live a healthy, all-senses-satisfying, emotionally rich life. Máté--engaging, funny, and insightful--nudges us all to live like Tuscans. With our frantic world so storm-tossed and rudderless, this might just be the book for our times.

The Wisdom of Tuscany: Simplicity, Security & the Good Life - Making the Tuscan Lifestyle Your Own Details

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Adrienne says

I wanted to love this book (who wouldn't?). I love Tuscany as much as anyone, and I guess I was hoping for this book to transport me there, but it was mostly yet another writer mourning the death of the "good old days." It's not that I disagree with his values. I like simplicity and focusing on family, too. But I get tired of the romanticization of the past.

Mary Beth says

Did not realize that this book was part of a trilogy. Bought it at a library book sale. Discusses many different aspects of life in Tuscany. Imagery is great. Will read others in the set.

Jeri Maxwell says

If you are ever feeling like you need to escape the daily rat race read this book! It will make you want to pack your bags and move to Tuscany!

Yoonmee says

While it's a fun, easy read, Mate is way too general in his writing focusing only on the positive aspects of Tuscan life. I suppose one needs to read this book with a grain of salt and in the right mood for this type of book: you need to be in the mood to daydream about life in Tuscany vs actually thinking about moving there. Normally I'd give this 3 stars because I'm all for daydreaming about the good life in another place, but I found Mate's writing to be too random and scattered. This book could have used a better editor, that's for sure.

All in all, it's a refreshing read if you want to fantasize about the good, country life. Mate makes some good points about our modern American lifestyles, but some of his recommendations (that we all move out to the country) are a little unrealistic for most people.

bookinglibrarian says

Mate does it again! His enthusiasm for Tuscany is always inspiring, even if his comparison of Tuscan values to those of 21st century North America is perhaps a bit simplistic (and perhaps a bit optimistic on the Tuscan side.) Nonetheless, this good life is something worth aspiring to, although one would prefer to do so in

Tuscany or thereabouts, aided by good food, abundant wine and olive oil .

Mario says

Ferenc describes tuscany as promised land on europe land. Wish taste that good life as he put on words. Humble and warm with hint of instruction how to live the simple life.

Laura Engle says

Ah, the good life. Charming because of the insights and the way it is written, not only because of the subject matter.

Kimberly says

Entertaining with great recipes at the end. I nice addition to his other books.

David Gardner says

A good book. Rambles slightly and sometimes a little cliché. Also some gross generalisations. But it gets the message across and provides an insight into the Tuscan way of life and its value

Mary says

Not nearly as good as A Vineyard in Tuscany, perhaps because I ongoing for a simpler time and found this book frustrating...

Cathie says

Really disappointing after how much I enjoyed his other Tuscany books which explored his life in Tuscany, first the move there, and then busing the wine farm.

While I can agree with many of the views in this book, I felt as if I was sitting through a lecture about how shallow my life was. Not all of us are in a position to uproot everything and move to the country!

Anna says

This book made me want to be in Tuscany right this very second. I am so excited about being there next

year, and I loved the simplistic "good life" described in these pages. Ahhhhh. So much of what is wrong with society is found by the opposite goodness in these pages. Nostalgic type of writing, but he writes of things currently in place and I long for it. Italia....io vengo per te.

Jenni says

Fabulous book. I've read it twice now and may make it my "first of the new year" book in the future as well. It's a great reminder of what's important in life and that most possessions are not worth the time and money we spend on them. It's helped keep me grounded when the American consumerist society tries to take over, but it's not an in-your-face get-rid-of-your-crap type book. The author does a great job of showing you how fantastic life can be when lived simply and seduces you to try out that simplicity for yourself.

Sharon says

A wonderful read. The book is written with a rhythm and texture that is simply mesmerizing. Reminded me to make the most of every single day. Life is joy.

Liz says

Right after reading The Hills of Tuscany I immediately read this book... it was a bit more analytical & thoughtful inquiry to what they found. Very different from the initial shock of moving there, but after living there 20 years how they compare it and have learned. Several interesting elements, but left me wishing he wrote from more of a personal perspective & included his wife's viewpoint & experience.
