TRAVEL PROGRAM MEDIA GUIDE

Village Life around the Italian Lakes

We hope you find the following list of resources—books, maps, video recordings, audio recordings, and websites—relating to your travel program helpful. The book titles listed should be available at local public or university libraries; most of them may be purchased and/or downloaded for e-readers through local and online bookstores.

◆ GUIDEBOOKS AND MAPS


DK Eyewitness Travel: Italy. DK Eyewitness Travel. 2019.
An eminently readable and portable guide to Italy’s various regions, experience la dolce vita with the superb color photography, illustrative guides to major museums and attractions and useful local maps.

This guide details the enthralling history and culture of Milan and the Italian Lakes region, with helpful itineraries and full-color photographs.

Fodor’s Essential Italy. Fodor’s Travel. 2019.
Written by local experts, this up-to-date guidebook features concise, easy-to-navigate coverage of Italy’s vaunted towns and cities along with well-curated listings of the main attractions, restaurants and galleries, trip planning tools, pull-out maps and suggested itineraries which highlight the country’s ultimate experiences.

This user-friendly travel map has been specifically designed for visitors as a practical guide to Milan and the Italian Lakes. It includes maps of the region, detailed street plans, large-scale projections of popular destinations, climate charts and other useful information.

Illuminating write-ups of the main sights and off-the-beaten path attractions are complemented with features that present popular culture and life in contemporary Italy as well as a healthy dose of historical background, practical information and numerous maps.

A compact yet comprehensive guide to Milan and the Italian Lakes from an authoritative, household-name travel source. The lion’s share of coverage in this book is dedicated to Milan, Lake Como and Lake Maggiore.
◆ HISTORY AND CULTURE

Wilton, Andrew and Bignamini, Ilaria (eds.). *Grand Tour: The Lure of Italy in the Eighteenth Century*. Tate Gallery Publishing. 1996. This catalogue immerses you in the Age of Enlightenment. View the role Italy played in 18th-century Europe through the lens of various countries, and enjoy prominent work from the Enlightenment’s finest thinkers and artists.

This classic portrayal of the Italian people examines, with unapologetic frankness, the great qualities and imperfections that define the national character. This insightful study remains as timely today as it was 55 years ago.

This exceptional and rare history of the Grand Tour begins at its inception during the decline of the Roman Empire and follows all the way through the modern era. Enjoy Chaney’s thorough and complete picture of Western civilization’s traditional Grand Tour through Europe.

Constantino, Mario and Lawrence Gambella. *The Italian Way: Aspects of Behavior, Attitudes, and Customs of the Italians*. McGraw-Hill Education. 1996. From calcio (soccer) and la piazza (the town square) to table manners and Italian April Fool’s Day, this colorful and often humorous book provides a wealth of fascinating insights into the Italian character and their daily way of life.


Findlen, Paula et al (eds.). *Italy’s Eighteenth Century: Gender and Culture in the Age of the Grand Tour*. Stanford University Press. 2009. Examine 18th-century Italian culture and learn how gender plays a role in music, art, literature and science. See how these issues shaped the image of Italy and continue to in the 21st century.

Gilmour, David. *The Pursuit of Italy: A History of a Land, Its Regions, and Their Peoples*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 2012. An approachable, insightful and clever consideration of the key events and protagonists in Italian history—from Cicero and Virgil to controversial 20th-century politicians—that have contributed both to the nation’s virtuosity and its shortcomings. Gilmour’s narrative is interspersed with witty personal anecdotes and observations which posit his central thesis that Italy’s greatness resides in the strength of regional identity.

University of Florence historian Ginsborg offers a fascinating look at media mogul and controversial Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi.

Hearder’s chronicle of Italian history is a concise, informative book and well worth the read.

This handbook, lauded by scholars of Italian contemporary culture, examines 21st-century Italy and the impact it makes on Italian politics. With 28 chapters, insights from renowned political and cultural experts, this essential reference on Italian politics and society opens a window on modern Italian society.

Welch explores the world of art in the context of Italian society, highlighting artist-patron relationships, art used in politics and religion, and how visual imagery impacts and connects to modern society and influences our behaviors.

**ART AND ARCHITECTURE**


This superb one-volume anthology presents an exciting and comprehensive selection of writings that represent the most influential works of 11 great Renaissance Italians. Excerpts from Machiavelli, Petrarch and Cellini are included.


While focusing on the flowering of art and culture in Renaissance Italy, Burckhardt maintains a keen interest in the nature of civilization itself in this Victorian classic—originally published in this translation in 1878. He covers state, art, society, religion, morality, philosophy and other topics of universal interest.


A beautifully illustrated, comprehensive study of Italian Renaissance painting, sculpture and architecture.

Helman Minchilli, Elizabeth and McBride, Simon. *Villas on the Lakes: Orta, Maggiore, Como, Garda*. Scriptum Editions. 2003. A comprehensive overview of the buildings that have defined the Lake District since the Roman Empire.


This comprehensive work introduces readers to the essentials on architectural life in Italy from the 13th through the 16th centuries. Illustrated with black-and-white photos, drawings and floor plans.

**LITERATURE AND TRAVEL MEMOIRS**

Cavaliero, Roderick. *Italia Romantica: English Romantics and Italian Freedom*. Tauris Parke Paperbacks. 2007. A former curator of the Keats-Shelley house in Rome, Cavaliero explores with great insight and humor the relationship between Italian and the English Romantics, many of whom were fond of the Italian Lakes and spent a great deal of time in the region.


In the 11th Gideon Oliver novel, the anthropologist vacations with his wife at an Italian estate near Lake Maggiore. However, beautiful views and delicious food can’t compete with the disappearance of their host’s child and the discovery of buried bones.

Forster, E.M. *A Room with a View*. Edward Arnold. 1908.

A much-loved classic of the canon of 20th-century literature, Forster’s piercing critique of Edwardian England underscores the author’s examination of the social and cultural implications of the Grand Tour.
Set mainly in Milan and Stresa, Hemingway’s romantic anti-war masterpiece was largely based on his own experiences during World War I. Like the novel’s protagonist, Frederick Henry, Hemingway served during the war as an ambulance driver and fell in love with a nurse while spending time recuperating from wounds in Stresa on the banks of Lake Maggiore.

Littlewood, Ian. *A Literary Companion to Venice: Including Seven Walking Tours*. St. Martin’s Griffin. 1995. Littlewood paints a comprehensive picture of Venice and the diverse array of artists who have called Venice home throughout the centuries, from Renaissance princes to famed authors. Featuring writings from Lord Byron, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, D.H. Lawrence, Marcel Proust and Ezra Pound.

Alessandro Manzoni’s 1827 classic, by many accounts “the first modern Italian novel,” concerns star-crossed lovers in 17th-century Lombardy. It remains hugely popular in Italy, where it has been made into several films and a stage musical.

A selection of Parks’s essays on Italy and Italian culture, from Machiavelli to Tabucchi. This collection forms an extensive picture of Italy’s centuries of history and literary and intellectual eras.

A thoughtfully complied anthology of literary writing on Italy over the past 150 years by such authors as Herman Melville, Henry James, D.H. Lawrence, and many others, with each selection placed in its appropriate historical or cultural context.

**FOOD**
*From the Source, Italy: Italy’s Most Authentic Recipes from the People That Know Them Best.* Lonely Planet. 2015. This unique cookbook series examines the cultural backstory and traditions behind some of the world’s most authentic local dishes as celebrity chefs and street food vendors share family recipes and culinary secrets from their own kitchens. This visually compelling Italian edition features original photographs along with classic recipes, stories and tips.

American head chef Jess Michaud takes us along on his three-year culinary journey into the world of Italian cuisine. From Paladina to Alba, Venice to Florence and everywhere in between, he dedicates himself to perfecting the “stubborn simplicity” of the country’s gastronomic delights.

Roden has spent most of her adult life researching and celebrating Mediterranean culinary traditions. In this work, written in her usual engaging style, she shares her encyclopedic knowledge of regional Italian cuisines and shares over 300 recipes.
**DOCUMENTARIES AND FILMS**

Listed below are films, documentaries and travel programs featuring Italy. All should be available on DVD and/or Blu-ray at your local library and/or bookstores or may be ordered online.

*A Farewell to Arms*. 1957. Directed by Charles Vidor.
Starring Jennifer Jones and Rock Hudson, this film edition of Hemingway’s classic was produced by David O. Selznick.

Starring Vanessa Redgrave, Edward Fox and Uma Thurman. Set on the shore of Lake Como, this magnificently produced film tells the story of a love triangle in the 1930s, while capturing the beauty of the Italian Lake District.

This unprecedented survey of Italian cinema, comprehensively curated by the leading expert of the field, is a landmark analysis of one of the world’s most influential cinematic traditions.

*Piccolo Mondo Antico*. 1941. Directed by Mario Soldati.
This classic love story set in 19th-century Lombardy and the Italian Lakes, is based on Antonio Fogazzaro’s 1895 novel. The first tour de force in Italian cinema, the plot centers on a thwarted marriage between a nobleman and the daughter of a humble clerk who, after years of estrangement, eventually meet again at Lake Maggiore where sadness, loss and tragedy ensue.

Starring John Turturro and Emily Watson. Set in the late 1920s, *The Luzhin Defence* tells the story of a shambling, unworlly chess Grand Master who arrived in the Italian Lake District to play the match of his life and unexpectedly finds the love of his life. Based on Vladimir Nabakov’s novel, *The Defence*.

Featuring extensive commentary by numerous academics and other experts, this comprehensive portrait of the Medici family provides invaluable insight into Italian Renaissance.

Join ubiquitous television personality Rick Steves on a journey throughout Italy. Steves travels to some of the towns, villages and cities we will visit during our travel program in the following episode:

- **Milan and Lake Como**

This episode and others can be accessed from: www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show

**MUSIC AND AUDIO RECORDINGS**

Both of these sampler releases from Droli give an excellent introduction to Italy’s acoustic and roots groups. Volume 1 includes Baraban, Calicanto, La Ciapa Rusa, La Piazza, Re Niliu, Ritmia, Ternores de Bitti, Tre Violini and others. Volume 2 includes La Moresca, La Piva Dal Carner, Acquaragia Drom, Totore Chessa, Uaragniun and others.

With an intoxicating blend of Italian songs from the 1950s and 1960s and contemporary music inspired by this bygone era, Italian Café is a charming collection of Italian songs.


One of the best current Italian compilations giving a good survey of music both north and south.

[www.worldmusic.net](http://www.worldmusic.net)

The *Rough Guide* and the *World Music Network* publish a variety of Italian music as well as superbly researched guide books to international music generally.

**WEBSITES**

[www.cbp.gov/travel](http://www.cbp.gov/travel)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) website.

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

United States Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website which provides information on immunizations and vaccinations and tips for staying healthy when traveling abroad.

[www.iec.ch/worldplugs](http://www.iec.ch/worldplugs)

Information on international electric current and plug types.

[www.italiantourism.com](http://www.italiantourism.com)

The Italian Government Tourist Board website.


*The New York Times*’s Travel Section features an array of basic travel-related information, multimedia presentations and links to newspaper articles from recent years.


Online currency converter tool and information on currency exchange rates.

[https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Italy.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Italy.html)

Basic information for Italy from U.S. Department of State.

[www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com)

Information on time zones and time conversions.

[www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

United States Department of State website; details on how to obtain or renew a passport.

[www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)

Transportation Security Administration website which provides information on air travel security, including permitted/prohibited items for carry-on luggage.

[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

Current weather and extended forecasts around the world.