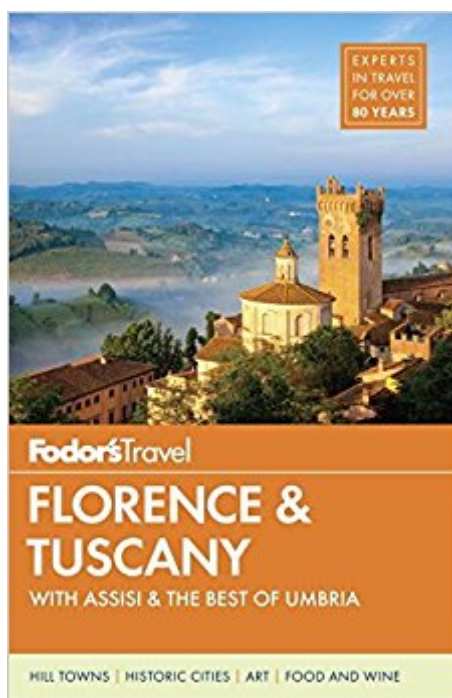


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# Fodor's Florence & Tuscany: With Assisi And The Best Of Umbria (Full-color Travel Guide)



## Synopsis

Written by locals, Fodor's travel guides have been offering expert advice for all tastes and budgets for more than 80 years. Fodor's correspondents highlight the best of Florence and Tuscany, including renowned Renaissance art, stunning churches, superb wineries, and charming hill towns. Our local experts vet every recommendation to ensure you make the most of your time, whether it's your first trip or your fifth. This travel guide includes:

- Dozens of full-color maps plus a handy pullout map with essential information
- Hundreds of hotel and restaurant recommendations, with Fodor's Choice designating our top picks
- A great itinerary to explore the top attractions and what's off the beaten path
- In-depth breakout features on The Duomo, Santa Croce, and Piazza del Campo
- Major sights such as the Galleria degli Uffizi, the Leaning Tower and San Gimignano
- Side Trips from Florence
- Coverage of Florence, Pisa, Lucca and Northwest Tuscany, Chianti, Siena and Central Tuscany, Arezzo, Cortona and Eastern Tuscany, Southern Tuscany, Umbria and the Marches

Planning to visit more of Italy? Check out Fodor's country-wide travel guide to Italy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Fodor's is pitched a few notches higher, aimed at a fairly discerning traveler with an appetite for background and the occasional surprise. • "The Fodor's guides are notable for their ratings of sights, restaurants, shops, accommodations and attractions. • "In terms of

comprehensiveness of coverage, the very accessible format, and the enthusiastic tone, this series remains one of the best on the market. Fodor's Booklist "Fodor's super-informative guidebooks are known for accuracy and attention to detail. Sacramento Bee "Fodor's can help you plan the perfect adventure. Arizona Republic

For over 80 years, Fodor's Travel has been a trusted resource offering expert travel advice for every stage of a traveler's trip. We hire local writers who know their destinations better than anyone else, allowing us to provide the best travel recommendations for all tastes and budget in over 7,500 worldwide destinations. Our books make it possible for every trip to be a trip of a lifetime.

I don't believe any other company can prepare an easier to use, more precise and more helpful book than this. I have bought other Fodor travel books in the past for Spain, Portugal, Cuba etc. and have found all of them to be up to date and crucial to making all my overseas trips enjoyable. I use these books to plan each days activities and I was never disappointed. It is why I always have used and will continue to use Fodor travel books. I highly recommend them to all travelers. And I always recommend that you do your homework by reading the book before you go.

They are clear in this book that it doesn't include everything in the area, but it includes everything that has been vetted as worthwhile. It's very thorough, with information about cultural expectations that people in the area have of visitors as well as what to expect as a visitor. It starts out with basic information on what to expect from the transportation system there, the weather in each season, and what to pack, so it is a very useful book for all aspects of planning and travel. As it progresses to attractions, hotels, restaurants and other things to do and see in the area, it gives some history and a lot of inside information so you can get the best deals for less. It also clues you into pitfalls that a lot of tourists make, like ordering in different restaurants, which can be very different from ordering in the states. There's also tons of transportation advice to help you avoid long lines and get the best deals. Sometimes the book is a bit packed and can get overwhelming. It's fairly thick and completely packed with information. I wish it had a few more color pictures to break up what can seem like just a lot of listings and text, but that would just make the book thicker to travel with. There's a large pull out map in the back that I like, which to me made it worthwhile to have the hardcopy.

This is an excellent guide to Florence, Tuscany and a large part of central Italy. The book itself is outstanding. Only about one-third of the volume is on the city of Florence; the rest is of areas mentioned in the title. This is where the book really shines. It seems to have covered everything of significance in central Italy. I particularly like the way it gives great local restaurants and hotels in these towns; many are wonderful gems that should not be missed. In Florence itself, the book while being brutally honest about the condition of the Boboli Gardens, does mention the spectacular view of the city. It also has a great walking tour of Florence's Piazzas. The book covers Orvieto, one of my favorite places to visit on a hot summer day; the hilltop town is cool with many outstanding features to visit and a pleasure to explore. Alas! This volume would profit from a walking tour of the town, and ignores my two favorite restaurants in town, *Tipica Trattoria Etrusca* and *Enoteca al Duomo*. It comes with a fairly good double-sided plasticized map of Florence that has to be removed from the book for use.

The guide covers Florence & Tuscany including: Pisa, Lucca, Chianti, Siena, Arezzo, Cortona, Assisi, Umbria & the Marches. Each area has its own section in the book & includes an overview map of the region & a city map. You will need to buy or pick up a good map(s) if you intend to travel around the area. There is a tear-out map of Florence in this guide. There is information on when to go, top attractions, experiences, itineraries, festivals & all the usual information about sleeping, eating, transportation, shopping, simple Italian words/phrases, etc. and more in depth information about regional food, famous people/artists & history. The book is well organized & small enough to take with you.

I collect travel guides to Italy - I can't say that Fodor's are my favorites, but I pretty much like perusing any travel guide to Italy and there is really nothing wrong with this one. If I had to pick one guide to Tuscany, it would probably be *Authentic Tuscany (Authentic Italy)* even though it is currently out of print. Nowadays unless you are a collector, I am not sure why anyone buys hardcopy travel guides at all: it makes much more sense to read them on the tablet or Kindle, when you are travelling. You won't go wrong reading this Fodor's guide in any case.

I haven't been a fan of Fodor's guides. But they must have upped their game recently because this one is surprisingly good. You can tell that it's written by locals who understand the territory. It hits all the hot spots of this part of Italy and even some lesser known places well worth a look. The

description of the historical and cultural significance of the art and architecture of the region is cursory, but at least it's there and not forgotten. If you want a handy and not weighty tome to carry around while you're on vacation and aren't an artsy type, this guide will serve you well.

The world of travel guides is dominated by two giants: classic, illustrated in color, very detailed Baedeker (since 1839), and the more exclusive, profusely illustrated in color, detailed Eyewitness travel guides. The Fodor's is closer to the Baedeker, but the Baedeker is better published and handier, has clearer layout and better maps and plans, and its plastic wallet cover holds the guide and map protected in all weather. The Fodor's series is - as this ISBN 0147546605 Florence & Tuscany - in full color, but has pale and thus not too legible maps and plans, though it is detailed comparably to the Baedeker and Eyewitness. It has as many illustrations as the Baedeker, but fewer than, and not as good as, the Eyewitness, which is 1/2 inch longer and thus min. less handy, but with excellent flexible vinyl bindings, greater number of pointers, and superior layout, graphics, clarity, and - in general - the quality of being a souvenir/memento. The content of approx. 35 pages incl. the index is shown by the .com's "LOOK INSIDE!" function. What cannot be seen is that the Fodor's series including this Florence & Tuscany has only plain and thin covers prone to dirt and creasing.

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