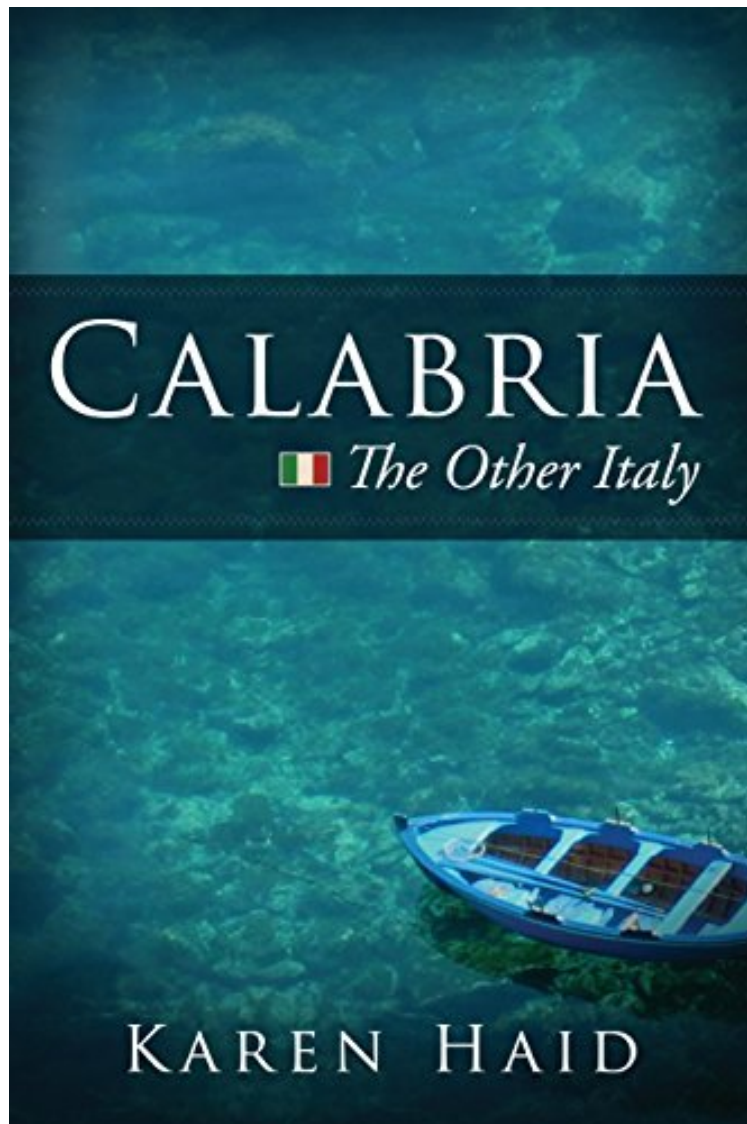


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## Calabria: The Other Italy

*Karen Haid*

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#414403 in Books Haid Karen 2015-01-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .63 x 5.98l, .91 #File Name: 1634132300280 pagesCalabria The Other Italy | File size: 76.Mb

**Karen Haid : Calabria: The Other Italy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Calabria: The Other Italy:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Unique read; highly recommended!By LisaI order many items from , but rarely write reviews. However, I felt compelled to write a review of this engaging, entertaining and informative book. Novels are more typically my go-to read, but my book club decided to try something different. I didnt know what to expect, but I have thoroughly enjoyed my excursion into Calabria, Italy. The author offers a unique presentation of her firsthand personal experiences, interesting and enlightening historical background, rich descriptions

of day to day life effusive with local color, and captivating descriptions of the landscape and significant sites to see, all seamlessly woven into a completely engaging and singular experience. The authors pleasantly wry and dry sense of humor is evident throughout, as she provides her own commentary on the human condition as experienced through this particular culture. I highly recommend this fun, funny, interesting, stimulating, educational and thought-provoking book. You will not have read anything like it!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Absolute Winner

By Customer

The punch line is that I highly recommend this book. I bought the book because of a scheduled trip to Calabria. The guide books that I found were skeletal. I got facts, but not much feel. There were no New York Times articles romanticizing the area. I need some color and tips. I need directions for experiencing this section of Italy. Ms. Haid nailed it. She presents life in Calabria in real-life terms. Sometimes her descriptions were as an observer. and often, they were communicated through her personal experiences. She describes the ordinary and routine, but also the extraordinary. The content is excellent, but the presentation puts it over the top. Ms. Haid is a talented writer. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. Her descriptions are animated, and they flow seamlessly. I could feel her enthusiasm and sometimes frustration. I often felt as though I was listening to a friend shooting-the-breeze about her adventure in Calabria. (I had to sip a vino, or two, when I was reading.) Her content and style would have been more than enough to make me a happy customer, but Ms. Haid provided more by sprinkling humor throughout. I chuckled often and laughed out loud a few times. A final point is that this book is a great resource for planning a trip to Calabria. The information about sites and experiences were invaluable for my trip. I was in Calabria for three weeks, and I visited at least 10 great spots/experiences that I would have missed were it not for this book. (Please note that there were far more than ten in the book. I am referring to ten that I would have missed, because they did not surface in my guide books or YouTube.)

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another great travel book

By Gordon C

This book will have you packing your bags for a tour of the southern part of Calabria. Karen Haid has written a telling book about her experiences as an English teacher in the deepest part of Italy. The book is a character study of the Calabrians. They are the same as other Italians and they are different. The influence of the Greeks and the Byzantine cultures show up in her observations. Many localities are described. The temptation is to go and see many of them. Life should be long enough and pockets should be deep enough. My sense is that this would not be like visiting Tuscany. Go now.

Once the hub of the Mediterranean, Calabria now dangles, largely ignored, at the bottom of the Italian boot, struggling for survival, acceptance and a place in modern Italy and the world. Little-known even to Italians outside the nefarious activities of its 'Ndrangheta mafia organization, Calabria allures with its simplicity and rewards with an underlying complexity, as in savoring an artisanal cheese, appreciating an ancient Greek masterwork or interpreting a particularly expressive phrase in the local dialect. Calabria: The Other Italy paints a compelling picture of contemporary Calabria and Southern Italy, weaving observation, personal anecdote, salient historical information and social commentary into a nonfiction narrative that combines travelogue with an exploration of everyday life and culture. At times humorous, at others poignant, this engaging work portrays the joys and challenges of the "other Italy."

After numerous visits to Italy, Haid found herself increasingly enamored with the country, so she decided to move to Locri, Calabria, to teach English and fully immerse herself in Italian culture. Haid's book recounts her four-year stint in Calabria with an intoxicating blend of humor, joy, and reverence for this area in Italy's deep south. The book reads like a travelogue, with long descriptions of train rides and encounters, but it also serves as a travel guide, with many facts and figures integrated into the narrative. Haid does not shy away from mentioning the negatives of Calabrian culture. Much of these are approached with humor, with the exception of the more disturbing aspects of the local community, such as the power of omert (the code or conspiracy silence that protects outlaws) and the influence of the Calabrian mafia over local politics and other community affairs. The chapters about criminal activity are broken up into two sections and separated by other chapters, and this deft organization preserves the predominantly upbeat and inspiring mood of tour into a lesser-known part of Italy. PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY (BookLife) Calabria: The Other Italy is part history, part travel guide, part memoir -- and as informed and informative as it is engaging and entertaining, making it very highly recommended for community and academic library collections, as well as the personal reading lists for non-specialist general readers with an interest in this inherently fascinating provincial section of Italy. MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW (Bookwatch) In a charming and refreshingly honest recounting of her time spent teaching English in Italy, Karen Haid's Calabria: The Other Italy offers what many other books on Italy don't: an unfiltered portrayal of an American adjusting to life in the sometimes quirky, loud and beautiful regions of southern Italy. The story of a newcomer in a small, Italian town is not an original one. But Haid's description of the town of Locri, her experiences teaching the local Italians, and her struggles with the Italian postal service feel fresh. Even more intriguing is the region where Haid decides to live. Much has been written about Italy from the streets of Florence, Venice and Rome. Few venture to the toe of Italy's boot, where Calabria lies often forgotten despite its stunning coastlines and eccentric people. Haid offers the perfect combination of personal experiences with Calabrians, and the history and culture of the region. Admirably, she avoids romanticized depictions, presenting Calabria in all of its

gritty, chaotic glory-which only adds to the beauty of her storytelling. AMBASSADOR - Magazine of the National Italian American Foundation, Danielle DeSimone Calabria: The Other Italy is a phenomenal book that captures the heart and soul of one of Italy's most obscure and attractive regions. PRIMO enthusiastically recommends the book to all Italian Americans and those who have a passion for Italy. PRIMO Italian American Magazine This book combines a personal memoir with a travel guide, as the author interweaves her own experiences and observations with information on Calabria's history and points of interest.... If your family originated in Calabria, this book will make you proud of the region's rich history and its tough, much-put-upon people. FRA NOI - BOSTONIANA