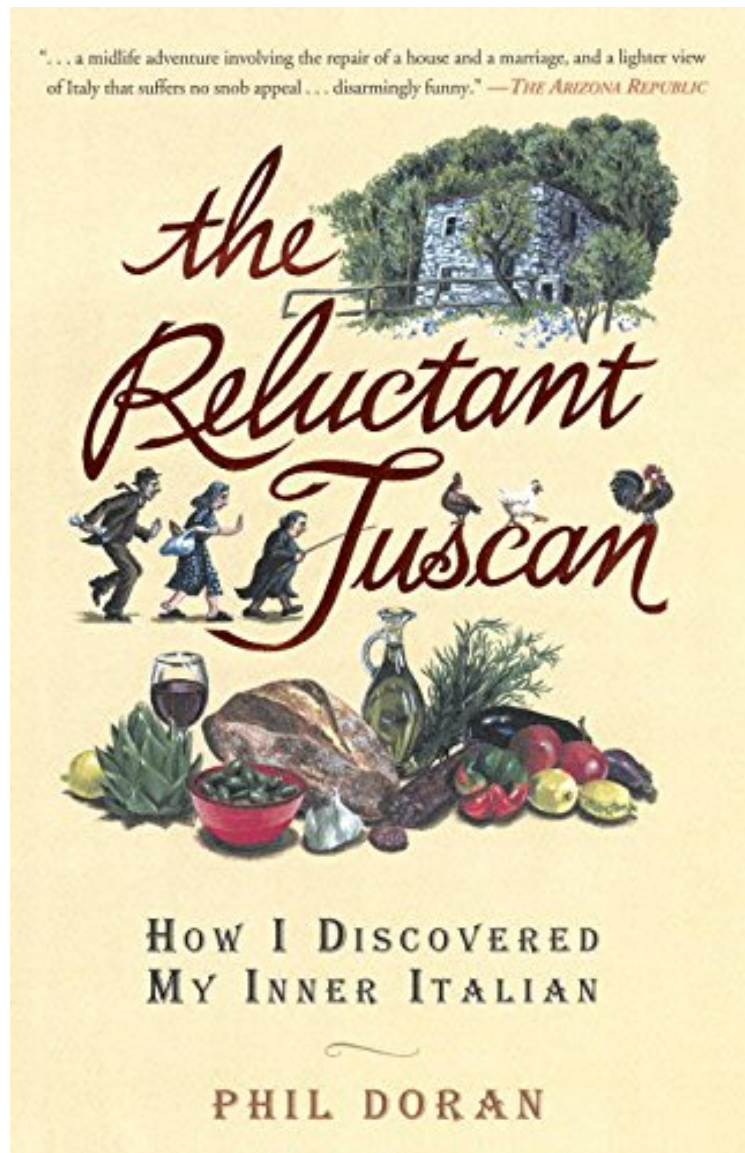


(Free pdf) The Reluctant Tuscan: How I Discovered My Inner Italian

The Reluctant Tuscan: How I Discovered My Inner Italian

Phil Doran

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Phil Doran : The Reluctant Tuscan: How I Discovered My Inner Italian before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Reluctant Tuscan: How I Discovered My Inner Italian:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Light, Amusing Read ...By delicateflower152 With "The Reluctant Tuscan", Phil Doran has given readers a witty, personal account of his life as a homeowner and, finally, an enthusiastic part-time resident of Cambione, Italy. (According to the biography on the dust cover, Doran divides his time between his home in Tuscany and the one in California.) The transition from Hollywood writer-producer to enthusiastic ex-

patriate and partner in what had been his wife's solo venture into a more rustic lifestyle is charming. As Doran deals with Italian bureaucracy and local customs, he begins to regain an appreciation for the rhythm and joys of living life as a participant and not simply as a cog in the wheel. Readers will be amused by the characters and their foibles; will salivate as local cuisine is described; and may feel compelled to make their own journey to Tuscany. Characters in "The Reluctant Tuscan" have larger-than-life personalities and eccentricities. Their actions and reactions have provided Doran, the writer, the ample material that forms the basis of this book. Those who enjoy light, amusing reading will find "The Reluctant Tuscan" to their liking. Readers who prefer a book with more depth and substantive material may be less enthusiastic about "The Reluctant Tuscan". 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. His book is like an Alitalia coach seat from LAX to Fiumicino. By Kelly von Hemert Doran is a self-described Hollywood refugee who is always one broken shoelace away from a nervous breakdown, so when he moves to a dilapidated farmhouse in Tuscany after being hemmed out of his thirty year career writing for sit coms, it makes for a hilarious memoir. His book is like an Alitalia coach seat from LAX to Fiumicino: up close, very personal, turbulent at times, and ultimately fantastically rewarding. Whether buttering up local official to get their construction plans approved, or cooking up batches of wild herbs that give them double vision, Doran and his wife Nancy have a knack for getting caught up in comic mischief, and becoming the butt of their own jokes. Doran's hilarious takes on the classic subjects of ice, strikes, and la bella figura will have anyone who has spent any extended time in Italy laughing in recognition. Doran has written a love letter to Italy, his wife and life itself in his own begrudging, curmudgeonly way, and I am so glad I came across it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very funny and interesting book on an American in Italy. By Mike Purchased to give to a friend as we loved this book when we first read it a few years ago. Very funny and also a interesting look into life in Italy.

After years of working on a string of sitcoms, Phil Doran found himself on the outside looking in. Just as he and his peers had replaced the older guys when he was coming up the ranks, it was now happening to him. And it was freaking him out. He came home every night angry, burned- out, and exhausted. After twenty-five years of losing her husband to Hollywood, Doran's wife decided it was finally time for a change so on one of her many solo trips to Italy she surprised her husband by purchasing a broken-down 300-year-old farmhouse for them to restore. The Reluctant Tuscan is about the author's transition from being a successful but overworked writer-producer in Hollywood to rediscovering himself and his wife while in Italy, and finding happiness in the last place he expected. In the witty tone that made him a success as a writer in Hollywood, The Reluctant Tuscan captivates those who simply love a good travel narrative as well as anyone who loves the quirky humor of Bill Bryson, Dave Barry, and Jerry Seinfeld.

From Publishers Weekly Readers of Doran's amusing memoir about relocating from Los Angeles to the tiny Tuscan town of Cambione must first suspend their disbelief that a person in his right mind would actively resist such an opportunity. But resist Doran does and when his sculptor wife buys a ramshackle, 300-year-old house there on a whim, she must drag him kicking and screaming out of his high-stress, low-reward life as a Hollywood writer and producer (among his hits: *Who's the Boss?* and *The Wonder Years*). What follows is rather predictable: the house turns out to be in even worse shape than anyone imagined, and the construction crew has no "discernable pattern" when it comes to showing up for work. Lines like "Things happen in Italy that don't happen anywhere else on earth. A magical friendliness is spread all over the place like pixie dust" don't do much to distinguish Doran's story from other books of its ilk, but the author's grudging optimism and dead-on ear for dialogue certainly do. Doran's brutally funny accounts of tangles with everyone (including the mayor, the police, an inefficient landlord and Doran's long-suffering wife) are enough to keep readers hooked until the last page. It may not be a surprise that he lives happily ever after, but how he gets there is certainly worth the ride. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist In funny, breezy, offhand prose, yet one more American discovers the pleasures and pains of restoring a superannuated, bucolic Tuscan dwelling. A writer-producer of television series, Doran moves from Los Angeles to Tuscany at the behest of his interior-decorator wife and begins to live out his own Italian-inflected version of Green Acres. Having been suborned into purchase of Tuscan real estate that no right-thinking Italian would dream of buying, Doran gradually succumbs to the Tuscan lifestyle of constant wondrous meals punctuated with siestas. The taste of a grape and a plate of local pasta weave increasingly tight bonds about him. Despite civic opposition to his wife's road-building efforts and the locals' endearingly duplicitous dealings with them, Doran finds himself drawn to all the sensuous pleasures Tuscany offers. Doran has an eye for the telling personal detail, and he knows how to set up a scene for maximum comic impact. This well-crafted book could easily pass for a television series treatment. All that is missing is a laugh track. Mark Knoblauch Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Praise for The Reluctant Tuscan: Doran's brutally funny accounts . . . are enough to keep readers hooked until the last page. Publishers Weekly . . . disarmingly funny. The Arizona Republic A truly funny book that reveals Italy as never before. The Grand Rapids Press