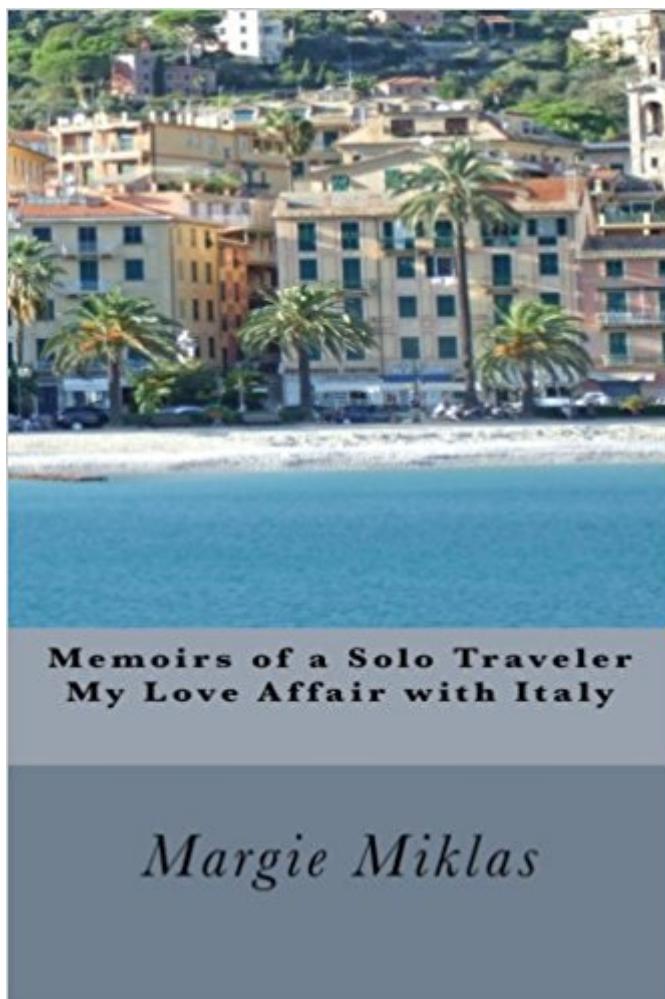


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Memoirs Of A Solo Traveler - My Love Affair With Italy



Synopsis

The first time Margie Miklas went to Italy she fell in love with the country and the people. Having dreamed of the chance to return and stay for an extended period of time, she embarked on a solo adventure and left for Italy in the spring of 2011. Spending months planning an itinerary that would take her to almost every region of Italy from the Aosta Valley to Sicily, she traveled to over fifty towns in the three months she spent there. Not speaking Italian, she learned the language by taking private lessons from a teacher who grew up in Italy. Armed with this knowledge, she was able to communicate with people she met along the way, and experience the lifestyle and culture of the Italian people. She went back to the villages of her grandparents, walked the same streets they had walked, and discovered cousins she never knew she had. "Memoirs of a Solo Traveler - My Love Affair with Italy" is based on Margie's blog, margieinitialy, which she wrote from Italy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Until five years ago I had never been to Italy. I couldn't speak Italian and understood very little. Last year I traveled to Italy on a solo adventure for three months, and it was the experience of a lifetime. I knew it would take a book to write about all the people I met along the way, everything I saw and did, and how this wonderful experience had changed my life.

Margie Miklas is a writer, photographer, and critical-care nurse, who has a passion for travel, with a particular love of Italy. She writes travel articles for several websites as well as a monthly newspaper, *La Gazzetta Italiana*. Margie writes a blog, margieinitialy, where you can follow her

adventures throughout Italy. Memoirs of a Solo Traveler - My Love Affair with Italy is Margie's first book and it is based on her three month solo adventure in Italy. Margie lives in Port St Lucie, Florida where she works in a cardiovascular intensive care unit, and is always seeking out opportunities to travel, especially to Italy. When she isn't working or writing, she enjoys spending time with her twin granddaughters, going to the beach, and working in her garden. She is currently working on her next book, My Love Affair with Sicily, and expects to publish in early 2014.

As so many others before me have said, this is an absolute must read if you will be making a trip to Italy. Or, even if you're not, as you will feel like you are right at Margie's side making all of the discoveries right along with her. I purchased this book when I decided to make my first trip to Italy and it is quite dog-eared with page after page of highlighted sections and phrases. It will be making the trip with me. Her book is a wealth of information from food & where to eat and what, useful Italian phrases and words, small towns and what makes them so special, how to get to these towns using buses and trains, popular tourist destinations and hints on visiting them, as well as personal encounters with the people of Italy. It's a guide book, it's a narrative, it's a blog. It is everything all rolled into one fun and informative book. An absolute must read for everyone. Margie's love of Italy and its people shines through on each page. If you had not planned on making a trip to Italy? You will after reading this book.

Grace. Passion. Gratitude. Feelings. Reading along as Margie Miklas travels through the beautiful cities of Italy on her solo journey, I learned as much about Margie as a person as I did about the places she traveled. Ms. Miklas couples her words so eloquently to paint a beautiful image in the reader's mind---making me want to pack my bags and visit all of the places she wrote about. I LOVE that Margie writes about the 'ordinary' and not just the well-known, famous sites throughout Italy. She discovers life and meaning in the quiet spaces--the garden of her hotel, in the kindness of strangers, in the gifts of the craftspeople, and ultimately, in the heart of the land and its lovely people...everywhere she goes, finding joy in unexpected places and having the courage to travel solo doing so! A beautiful book written by a very beautiful soul. A must read if you plan to visit Italy or if you have been there before and wish to return through Margie's words. And especially, if you are considering traveling solo, you should definitely read this: A true gem of a book!

Margie Miklas certainly has a love affair with Italy, but I would go one step further to add that there is also a respect and understanding of the Italian people and culture as well. There is something

beautifully charming about this simple journal chronicling Miklas' trip through Italy that leaves the reader smiling at the end of each chapter. The writing is straightforward, descriptive, and honest, and while Miklas clearly has knowledge of Italy, its culture, and language, she never leaves her reader behind during her journey. You taste the meals, you experience the relief of finding a laundromat, you are frustrated with transportation delays, and you feel success with a treasured purchase or chance connection with distant family. This is the perfect read before traveling to Italy or while settling down after a long day. Margie Miklas' kind, gracious voice invites everyone to join her in Italy, and at the end of the book, you are taken back to the U.S. feeling more worldly than the day you embarked on this trip with the Solo Traveler.

I traveled in Italy extensively when I was younger. Finally, here is a book that feels as if I were there again, moment by moment. The author has written a book alive with details and has somehow captured the feel, the atmosphere, the essence of being a traveler in one of the most beautiful countries in the world. Great book!

I loved this book and enjoyed the author's detailed descriptions of each region/town she visited. She describes Italy as only someone who loves it can. There is a deep respect and admiration for the Italian way of life, as well as anecdotes about some of the quirkier sides of the culture. Margie Miklas' journey as a solo traveler to explore the land of her ancestors will resonate with anyone who has traveled alone, loves Italy, or has searched for their family roots. A beautiful book. Brava, Margie! Catie

Being well advanced into my senior years, it is unlikely I will get to travel Italy. However, thanks to Il Volo and Margie, I felt as though I were traveling along with her... living and absorbing the country's culture and language. I became intrigued with Italy after my favorite singers, Il Volo, introduced me to the romantic Italian language. I have even taken up learning some Italian. From there Margie took over...leading me through and painting pictures of a most fascinating country. Keep traveling and reporting, Margie, I'm ready for your next book!

While this book evokes the desire to just start planning your own trip to Italy to check out all the places so artfully described and to sample some pasta pomodoro , it also offers such an empowering message: Determination and open-mindedness will allow you to have experiences far beyond your expectations. Age does not matter. - What a beautiful and uplifting book!

I bought this book in preparation for my trip to Italy. What a smart thing to do. The book read like a step-by-step tour in it self. I felt like I was going through it with her. Her descriptions made me feel like I was walking the streets, riding the train, etc with her. Her hints and suggestions of what to do, how to travel, what to pack, where to buy, money use/exchange, favorite food spots, and what to see were invaluable. I'm back from my two week trip, and her descriptions were perfect. I would recommend it to everyone as a guide on what to expect, and also to guide your choices of where to go and what to see. Simple to read, and flows like a journal.

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