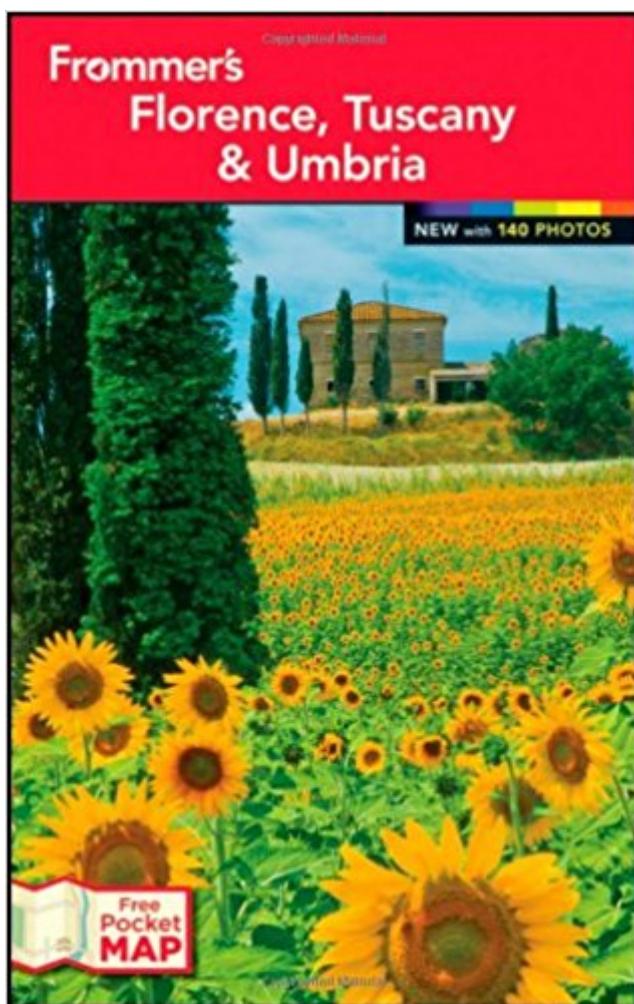


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# Frommer's Florence, Tuscany And Umbria (Frommer's Color Complete)



## Synopsis

Full-color throughout Free full-color, foldout map Where to find the absolute best seafood, the loveliest vineyards, the tastiest pizza, and, of course, the finest gelato. Our writers have checked out all the best hotels and restaurants in person. You'll also get up-to-the-minute coverage of shopping and nightlife. Insider advice on avoiding the crowds as you explore some of Italy's greatest gems, from the Uffizi in Florence to the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Plus tips for navigating the region's lovely but less-traveled corners, like Arezzo, Elba, and Montefalco. Opinionated reviews. No bland descriptions and lukewarm recommendations. Our expert writers are passionate about their destinations--they tell it like it is in an engaging and helpful way. Exact prices listed for every establishment and activity--no other guides offer such detailed, candid reviews of hotels and restaurants. We include the very best, but also emphasize moderately priced choices for real people. User-friendly features including star ratings and special icons to point readers to great finds, excellent values, insider tips, best bets for kids, special moments, and overrated experiences.

## Book Information

Series: Frommer's Color Complete

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: \*Frommers; 8 edition (April 17, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1118074661

ISBN-13: 978-1118074664

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #425,690 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #8 in Books > Travel > Europe > San Marino & Umbria #10 in Books > Travel > Europe > Italy > Umbria #45 in Books > Travel > Europe > Italy > Tuscany

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Donald Strachan (chapters 1 and 4) is a London-based writer and journalist. He has written about Italian travel for publications including the Sunday Telegraph, Independent on Sunday, Sydney Morning Herald, and Guardian, and is the author of Frommer's Florence & Tuscany Day by Day and coauthor of Tuscany & Umbria With Your Family. Stephen Keeling (chapters 1-3 and 9-12) grew up in England, lived briefly in Latvia, and spent 12 years as a financial journalist in Asia. Despite attempts to kick his gelato addiction, he has been to Italy many times—an incomparable knowledge of Tuscan Chinese restaurants formed while chaperoning a group of Vietnamese officials in 1994. Stephen is the coauthor of the award-winning Tuscany & Umbria with Your Family and currently lives in New York City.

I always buy Frommer Travel books when taking a big trip to another country. I look at others to compare but ultimately wind up buying Frommers as I like its format. Easy to follow and find what you are looking for without combing the pages. Even though I had an older Frommers ITALY book, I bought this one because I didn't want to carry around the big one since we were going essentially to Tuscany & Florence (used other book for Cinque Terre). Tried many of the restaurants recommended and were not disappointed with any of them. It also comes with a great map (for those people over 40 who know how to read a real map!). Would definitely recommend if going to Tuscany/Umbria regions.

Lots of good information, but poorly organized. The narrative is dull and monotonous. It makes the most fascinating places flat and uninteresting. Does little to try to prioritize your time. Good as a reference, but not much help if you are still trying to decide where to go. Their two and three week itineraries are helpful, but do not explain why they made the choices they did. Read it only if you have a lot of time on your hands. Good as a second reference for the casual traveler who is unfamiliar with the area..

Loved this book...been to Italy many times, and wanted to visit a few different places. Found it very useful, even for an experienced traveler.

The book is like brand new and it is a new edition as advertised. Lots of great information to read with maps

I have been to Tuscany and northern Italy several times in recent years, and have been fortunate to have enjoyed extended stays where I could really get out and about and put a travel book to the test. On my last trip, I took along "Frommer's Florence, Tuscany and Umbria", and was very pleased with it. It has been said that a travel guide isn't really useful until you have already been to the destination and so know what the content in the guide is really about. It's tough to read a guidebook at home, about a culture or country you have not been to before, and not have your eyes glaze over with facts and figures and histories that may not be meaningful for you until you are there, or you have been there, for context. I had previously visited and already knew many of the places and details in Tuscany and Umbria. But I found the Frommer's Guide to be both concise, helpful, reasonable in its recommendations and well organized. Most of all it was balanced, and I agreed with its content and descriptions of many things that I already felt I knew, and I was pointed towards new things that I had passed by or not known about despite earlier visits. It genuinely enriched my trip. Of course, when you are talking about classic destinations like Tuscany, or Provence, or Paris or London and so forth, all guidebooks are pretty much recycling the same points of interest and history. You could probably take a guide book from the 19th century and have much the same basic core information about monuments, art and architecture. The evolution in guidebooks has been about presentation, greatly enhanced by new means of laying out and illustrating books, about the personal, modern readers seem to want a much more intimate and personal account of what might lay ahead, and about the depth of recommendations for restaurants and hotels which have exploded in number and variety. First, I never look to travel guidebooks for recommendations on restaurants, other than to know that there may indeed be one at this and that street or square. Restaurants are notoriously subjective experiences. A tradition minded reviewer may love a restaurant or cafe because it has classic regional food, well done, but a visitor may feel it's boring tourist fare and nothing could make it worthwhile. Some reviewers may like spicy food, but don't describe food as such, and a tender tongued visitor recoils in horror at the tastes. A reviewer may try to go foodie and be adventurous, the visitor may feel they have been duped into something bizarre, over rated and over priced. And so on and so forth. A great restaurant with a good chef last year may have changed owners and have a mediocre chef this year. Many of the complaints, sometimes vociferous, that you read on-line about ALL travel guidebooks come down to the visitor's feeling about the reliability of the restaurant reviews. All that said, I have found the Frommer's food reviews and restaurant lists to be generally reliable pointers to a good meal. But that's all any guidebook can do when it comes to a restaurant recommendation, point. As for maps, the Frommer's Guide has the maps you need for the region and for key towns. The maps are clear and

well labeled and of great use in planning your day and program. But it would be foolish to go to a new and complex destination with just the maps in a guidebook, any guidebook, or to hope that you could find a good map after arrival. I would recommend the Streetwise Florence map in particular. The list of festivals is especially helpful, and are a good start on following up with a search for info about specific events from on-line sources. To search for it you first have to know it exists, so the Frommer's Guide is both a useful tool for actually going to the festivals and for starting to find out more about them. Food, wine, art, architecture, museum, shopping, hill town, markets and history info is all concise, is fair minded without too much hyperbole, and is well laid out in attractive pages that read easily. The writing is not, I am happy to say, afflicted with the sort of cheeky Brit speak and word play that seems so tedious and childish in so much recent British travel writing. Mind you, I said the guide was "concise". Tuscany and Umbria are wide ranging and complex subjects. I am sure that some may find fault that some point, inclination or perspective may have been omitted. But as a solid guide to take on your trip to Italy this guide can't be beat, and I say that after years of Rough Guides, Lonely Planets, Fodor's etc. Frommer's books are, generally speaking, to this traveler and reviewer, clearly better than the superficially beautiful Eyewitness guide books that manage to be both very light on real info while weighing a ton due to the heavy glossy paper used and the amount of square footage per page given over to images and graphics. Is "Frommer's Florence, Tuscany and Umbria" perfect? What is? It is after all what a small group of expert humans thought worth saying and presenting to a very wide and varied audience of demanding and sometimes anxious readers looking for info about something that they have not seen or experienced before while being anxious and pressed for time, usually, while visiting the destination. But I think it's a great guide book, especially as I could compare its merits with what I knew to be the facts on the ground from past trips. I plan to have it with me again on my next trip, and would suggest the same for you. RECOMMENDED.

Travelers know that Frommer's Travel Books are one of the best sources of information for any destination. Several years back, I travelled to Rome, Italy. I loved every moment of it. I know that one day I will go to Italy again. At this point, this travel book is really part of my research for my next trip to Italy. Tuscany and Umbria trips make sense for travelers who are looking for relaxing trips and exciting visits to vineyards. Florence seems like an added bonus to the package. This book have over 450 pages of valuable information on the area. In addition to most frequently used phrases, it also includes a free pocket map of the area. There are 140 color photos to destinations. Book also has a list of recommended itineraries. One can plan 12 day travel to visit some of the

most beautiful sightseeing areas of this part of the Italy. There is even itinerary on island of Elba for travelers interested in visiting Napoleon's place of exile before he died. Travelers interested in cultural aspects of the trip will be delighted with recommendations for museums and churches that have sculptures and paintings of most important artists in history such as: DaVinci, Raphael, Botticelli, Michelangelo and Modigliani. The beauty of this travel book is there is source of information for travelers of every generation and budget. One can find restaurants, hotels and transportation information. Book is printed in a high quality paper and will not take a lot of space during travel; it is must have travel companion for anyone visiting this area of the world. This is the new edition of the book for the area. The authors Donald Strachan and Stephen Keeling deserve praise for wonderful delivery of valuable information in a user friendly format. This book is the best investment one can make in preparation for the travel to Florence, Tuscany and Umbria part of Italy.

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