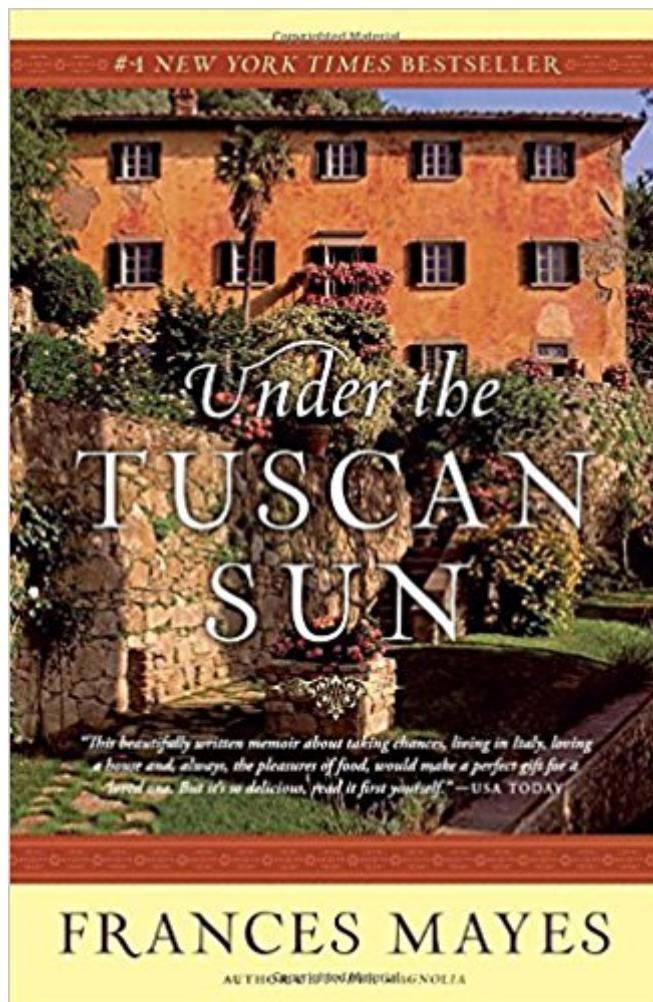


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# Under The Tuscan Sun: At Home In Italy



## **Synopsis**

20th Anniversary Edition with a New Afterword — Twenty years ago, Frances Mayes--widely published poet, gourmet cook, and travel writer--introduced readers to a wondrous new world when she bought and restored an abandoned villa called Bramasole in the spectacular Tuscan countryside. Under the Tuscan — inspired generations to embark on their own journeys--whether that be flying to a foreign country in search of themselves, savoring one of the book's dozens of delicious seasonal recipes, or simply being transported by Mayes's signature evocative, sensory language. Now, with a new afterword from the Bard of Tuscany herself, the 20th anniversary edition of Under the Tuscan Sun brings us up-to-date with the book's most beloved characters.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In this memoir of her buying, renovating, and living in an abandoned villa in Tuscany, Frances Mayes reveals the sensual pleasure she found living in rural Italy, and the generous spirit she brought with her. She revels in the sunlight and the color, the long view of her valley, the warm homey architecture, the languor of the slow paced days, the vigor of working her garden, and the intimacy of her dealings with the locals. Cooking, gardening, tiling and painting are never chores, but skills to be learned, arts to be practiced, and above all to be enjoyed. At the same time Mayes brings a literary and intellectual mind to bear on the experience, adding depth to this account of her enticing rural idyll. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mayes's favorite guide to Northern Italy allots seven pages to the town of Cortona, where she owns

a house. But here she finds considerably more to say about it than that, all of it so enchanting that an armchair traveler will find it hard to resist jumping out of the chair and following in her footsteps. The recently divorced author is euphoric about the old house in the Tuscan hills that she and her new lover renovated and now live in during summer vacations and on holidays. A poet, food-and-travel writer, Italophile and chair of the creative writing department at San Francisco State University, Mayes is a fine wordsmith and an exemplary companion whose delight in a brick floor she has just waxed is as contagious as her pleasure in the landscape, architecture and life of the village. Not the least of the charms of her book are the recipes for delicious meals she has made. Above all, her observations about being at home in two very different cultures are sharp and wise. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Dragged....Oh my God. How EVER did they get enough out of this to make a good movie...and it was. I do not think that I have ever liked a movie better than the book but this was excruciating to read and I did not finish it. The author did have a gift for description of a setting and of food but there was no plot....just description of food and settings.

I enjoyed starting the book. I found as I went along that reading it to completion was not going to happen for me. It was interesting to read about the house and the repairs. I was left wanting more of a story line to it rather than just the happenings of them building their life in Tuscany. Perhaps I was too influenced by the move of the same name.

Wanted to rate this about 3.75 but rounded up to 4 stars. The book is really NOTHING like the movie. Okay, that's not the book's "fault". The screenwriters took some liberties in creating a PLOT, some DRAMA, and some CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT. The book is lacking in all of these items. However, the book is a memoir, not a novel. Mayes' writing is lyrical, poetic, beautifully describes the Tuscan scenery and the details of purchasing and refinishing an old stone home, along with the gardens, olive grove, and vineyard adjacent to the home. Part travelogue, part cookbook (she does seem to spend a LOT of time eating)! There was really only one chapter that was torture, and I could not WAIT to finish the book - the chapter describing various Catholic saints and their sufferings, which also somehow tried to tie observations about life in Tuscany with the author's childhood in Georgia. I was lost, bored, wanted to shoot myself instead of reading these disjointed ramblings. But I will wrap up with one of many, many beautiful, descriptive passages I highlighted in

this book: "Coming down from Spello, we see the early moon hoisting itself over the hills. We keep losing it as we turn then face it again, the largest, whitest, spookiest moon I've ever seen. All the way to Montefalco, home of the Sagrantino, we dodge the moon. Two or three times we see it rise again, over a different hill." Recommended read taken at a slow pace, savoring the language.

I bought this book on Kindle because I loved the movie. I was surprised and initially disappointed when I realized it wasn't the same story line as the movie. Then, I fell in love with the writer's beautiful use of words, descriptions and love of the land. I could imagine myself living in this country. I also loved the chapters with recipes. I ended up buying this copy of the book to send to a friend that loves the land the way this author does. 5 stars!

The book Under the Tuscan Sun by Frances Mayes is nothing like the movie. Too bad! The book is delightful and much more than a memoir of home renovation. Mayes loves Tuscany and it is evident in her pages, recalling the taste of a peach, a sip of Brunello, the smell of a melon. She shares her favorite Italian recipes, like an easy sauce with diced pancetta, quickly browned and stirred into cream with fresh Arugala and Parmigiano, and white beans with sage and olive oil. She takes you on an arduous hike to Etruscan tombs, and to a delightful restaurant in Cortona. Mayes is the perfect hostess welcoming you into her home and heart, and she is the perfect tour guide. Who could not go to Tuscany without Frances Mayes?

So one of my favorite movies, not just because of Diane Lane, but for other reasons is based on this book. But it really isn't. The life that Mayes describes is a brief part of the movie. When the character based on Mayes writes on the postcard, the language she uses is what this novel is infused with. It is a love letter to this area of Tuscany. Bits and pieces of the story make their way on screen, but the continuity is different. The movie is a tale with beginning, middle and end. This book is lovely, and one feels a sense of attachment to a place you never have been through the words and writing of Mayes. But it is not the story that made its way to the screen. That, to me was more engaging than the tale of Mayes and her husband Ed restoring Bramasole. I will watch the movie over and over. I will read other books by Mayes, but I don't think I will revisit this again. I can recommend it for all of us should experience her use of language, that is wonderful.

This book is the story of how an American couple were able to come "home" to a derelict house in Tuscany. It is not a travel book but does have beautiful descriptions of the countryside. It is not a

cookbook but gives seemingly luscious recipes that use the locally grown foods. It paints a beautiful picture of the people and place. It is not a gardening book but gives you an insight into gardening techniques. It will not especially appeal to people looking for reviews of the area with the intent to travel there. But this is one of the few books I remember and really enjoyed the author's turn of phrase this time around as well as imagining the foods she cooked and the landscaping and house refurbishing the couple engaged in over a several year period.

Very pleased with this engagement calendar. Pros: 1) Weekly layout is Monday-Sunday (not Sun-Sat like in some), so I can keep my weekends together!; 2) Good spiral binding allows for it to open flat like a book, or fold back on itself; 3) Has a page with 2010, 2011 and 2012 months at a glance - very useful; 4) Each week also shows the monthly grid as well as the past and next months; 5) Heavy, nice quality paper; 6) Gorgeous photos; 7) 52 photos so you have one for every week. Cons: Could use a little more daily space to write in - the month heading takes up a lot of each page at the top, and the monthly grids take up a good portion of the right side of each weekly page. Would give this 5 perfect stars if there was a little more writing space. All in all, VERY happy with this calendar and will buy again.

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