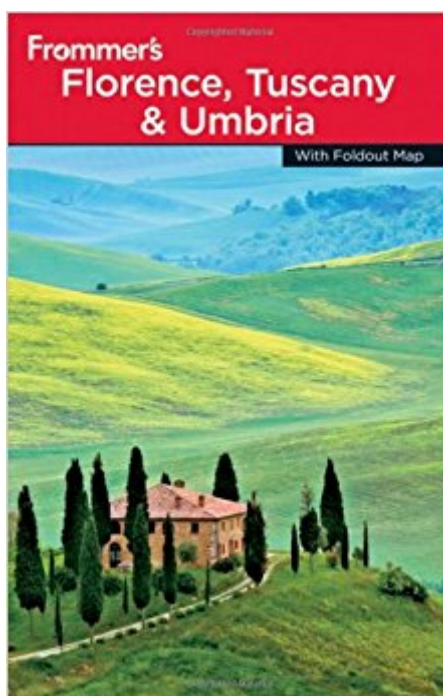


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Frommer's Florence, Tuscany And Umbria (Frommer's Complete Guides)



Synopsis

Experience Siena's Palio, the centuries-old bareback horse race that runs through the city's Piazza del Campo. See chapter 7. Foldout map, plus detailed maps throughout Exact prices, directions, opening hours, and other practical information Candid reviews of hotels and restaurants, plus sights, shopping, and nightlife Itineraries, walking tours, and trip-planning ideas Insider tips from local expert authors

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Customer Reviews

Book Highlight: Locanda dell'Amorosa, Sinalunga Photo by Locanda dell'Amorosa In the Chiana valley, just east of Siena and south of Arezzo, an arrow-straight country lane lined with slim dark cypresses leads away from modern-day Sinalunga to a charming relic of Italy's rich agrarian past. Book Highlight: Castello Banfi, Tuscany Photo by Castello Banfi Castello Banfi appears on the Tuscan horizon like a pink hilltop castle straight out of a fairy tale. A tall, slender Rapunzel-style tower overlooks a huge estate that reaches almost as far as the nearby Mediterranean. Within this authentic medieval fortress lies a cozy courtyard; outside lies a cluster of stone cottages with narrow vine-covered streets, a hamlet that clung to the castle walls in the dark ages. The estate holds vines, olive groves, wheat fields, plum orchards, and woodlands; within those same forests live wild boar, deer, pheasant, even truffles.

Frommer's. The best trips start here. Experience a place the way the locals do. Enjoy the best it has

to offer. Expert advice on Florence's top cultural sights, Chianti's best vineyards, and Tuscany's and Umbria's don't-miss countryside towns. Outspoken opinions on what's worth your time and what's not. Exact prices, so you can plan the perfect trip whatever your budget.

Off-the-beaten-path experiences and undiscovered gems, plus new takes on top attractions. For great deals and book your trip at Frommers.com --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm planning a trip to Tuscany and Umbria next fall (I've been to Florence before), and found the Frommer's Italy 2010 guide* so helpful I bought this more focused guide. Some of what I said about the broader guide applies to this one, as well: Like the Michelin guide, it rates key attractions with one to three stars. While I would never plan a trip based on the ratings of a single guidebook, I do find the star ratings helpful in elucidating the author's opinions in a way that sifting through different adjectives in descriptions isn't. Unlike the Michelin guide this book groups cities by geography (which is how you would visit them) rather than alphabetically across the whole country. It also has more detail on hotels. In fact, the extensive descriptions of hotels is one of the reasons I found this guide so useful. While the Italy guide covers Florence and Tuscany, Umbria, and The Marches in two chapters and less than 200 pages, this guide offers more than 400 pages devoted to Florence, Tuscany, and Umbria. (Yes, Florence is in Tuscany, but both guides treat it separately.) This guide has a different author from the Italy guide, and not all recommendations line up between the guides. But, as I have said, I wouldn't plan a trip based on one author's opinion, so that's not all bad. Overall, I have found this guide to be extremely helpful, and the small, pull-out map of Tuscany and Umbria included is very helpful; I'd been looking, unsuccessfully, for a map of that size and scale! One thing the guide does not have is photos; but combine the pictorial Eyewitness guides** with the wealth of prose information in this book and you have a winning combination. Note: This review is of the 6th Edition published in 2008. Other reviews may be of different editions. *Ã Â Frommer's Italy 2010 (Frommer's Color Complete Guides)**Ã Â Florence and Tuscany (Eyewitness Travel Guides); Umbria (Eyewitness Travel Guides)

I would have given it 3.5 stars, but couldn't so I will round down. I used this book for a trip I had earlier this year. It covered every city that we were interested in going, and since that was the case, it lacked detail on some of the off the beaten path cities. Overall, I found it to be pretty useful and we were able to fill in some of the gaps with tripadvisor and some other sites. There was a lot more detail in the more popular cities, which makes a lot of sense since those are much more well

travelled. The hotel and restaurant picks were all pretty good. We didn't visit the more popular cities this time around, but the book would have been useful to have on previous trips.

We returned from Italy yesterday & had disappointing experiences when we relied on the Frommer's guide. Restaurants were bad, shops were described inaccurately with poor directions, and, in general, descriptions were too positive. Other guides (Fodor's, Lonely Planet, & Time Out) provided much more objective information.

I have looked at all the guides Rick Steves, Fodor's, Lonely Planet, and Michelin. I found the Frommers to be the most helpful and diverse - the guide recommends venues in every town/city that will appeal to families, romantics, wine/food lovers, etc. I looked at the 4 reviews before this review and I think those reviews are for an older edition of the book. Those reviews were written in 2009 and this book came out in February 2010.

Restaurant reviews were soooooo bad. We found much better and cheaper restaurants on our own after we gave up on these probably paid advertisements! Frommers should be ashamed at the difference between what they write and what is reality. The guide to get around is useless, with maps poorly designed and at the wrong detail level for what was needed. My favorite was 'now you are here and completely lost, why not buy our other book that has details!' Thanks god I have an iPhone that got me around. Frommers is dead to me. Give them less than 1 star. edit**** forgot the useful Children's Activities listed here are terrible. Do not waste your time and effort going to Pinocchio Park no matter what the book says! It is not cute, whimsical or entertaining for the kids or adults. I found much more accurate reviews of places and food on another well known 'tripadvisor' website. Invest some time before hand and do not buy this book! I cannot even give you my copy since it was so useless we left it in Italy!

While we found the guidebooks useful in some ways, the restaurant recommendations were extremely disappointing. We ate at two of the recommended restaurants (one recommended by the Frommer Tuscany guidebook, the other by the Frommer Rome guidebook) during a week long stay in Italy. They were the most average meals we had - certainly they were not worth the stars they were given by Frommer. The Rome guidebook also recommended a restaurant (Insalata Ricca) near Piazza Navona without mentioning it was part of a chain. We walked several blocks to this location with family who wanted a light meal before catching the train (we didn't eat there ourselves)

and later discovered that there was another one right around the corner from our hotel. I do not plan on buying a Frommer's guidebook again, because I can't trust their recommendations. The facts and history are available in other guidebooks too. I should also mention that the guidebook claimed that parking in Siena was exorbitantly expensive. Perhaps that is true if one parks the car and stays in a hotel in the city for several days. We visited the city for about 8 hours and paid about \$15 which didn't seem too bad.

Very nice product! Very helpful for my 4 months in Italy! Be sure to read about the Chocolate Festival in Perugia!

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