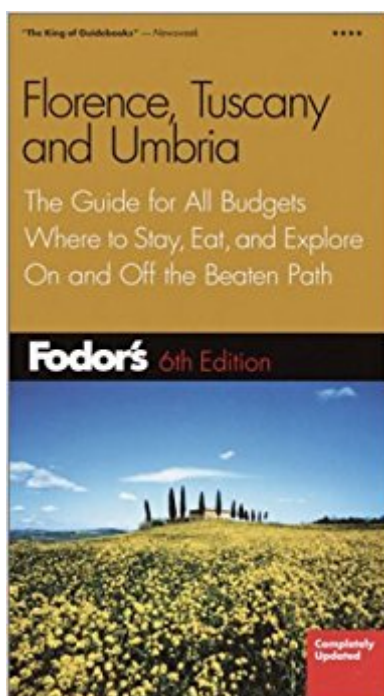


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Fodor's Florence, Tuscany, Umbria, 6th Edition: The Guide For All Budgets, Where To Stay, Eat, And Explore On And Off The Beaten Path (Travel Guide)



Synopsis

No matter what your budget or whether it's your first trip or fifteenth, Fodor's Gold Guides get you where you want to go. In this completely up-to-date guide our experts who live in Florence, Tuscany, and Umbria give you the inside track, showing you all the things to see and do ? from must-see sights to off-the-beaten-path adventures, from shopping to outdoor fun. Fodor's Florence, Tuscany, Umbria shows you hundreds of hotel and restaurant choices in all price ranges ? from budget-friendly B&Bs to luxury hotels, from casual eateries to the hottest new restaurants, complete with thorough reviews showing what makes each place special. The Smart Travel Tips A to Z section helps you take care of the nitty gritty with essential local contacts and great advice ? from how to take your mountain bike with you to what to do in an emergency. Plus, web links and mix-and-match itineraries make planning a snap.

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I've been to Italy several times.....Rome, Venice, Florence, Bologna, Milan, some of the hill towns, etc. Here are my reviews of the best guides to meet your exact needs.....I hope these are helpful and that you have a great visit! I always gauge the quality of my visit by how much I remember a year later.....this review is designed to help you get the guide that will be sure YOU remember your trip many years into the future. Travel Safe and enjoy yourself to the max!Fodor'sFodor's is the best selling guide among Americans. They have a bewildering array of different guides. Here's which is what:The Gold Guide is the main book with good reviews of everything and lots of tours, walks, and just about everything else you could think of. It's not called the Gold guide for nothing though....it assumes you have money and are willing to spend it.Seelt! is a concise guide that extracts the most popular items from the Gold GuidePocketGuide is designed for a quick first visitUpCLOSE for independent travel that is cheap and well thought outCityPack is a plastic pocket map with some guide informationExploring is for cultural interests, lots of photos and designed to supplement the Gold guideRick Steves' books are not recommended. They may be an interesting read but their helpfulness is very poor. They don't do well on updates, transportation details, or anything but the first-time-tourist routine and even that is somewhat superficial on anything but the mega-major sites.Frommer'sThese are time tested guides that pride themselves on being updated annually. Although I think the guides below provide information that is in more depth or more concise (depending on what the guide is known for), if your main concern is that the guide has very little old or outdated information, then this would be a good guide for you.Lonely PlanetLonely Planet has City and Out To Eat Guides. They are all about the experience so they focus on doing, being, getting there, and this means they have the best detailed information, including both inexpensive and really spectacular restaurants and hotels, out-of-the-way places, weird things to see and do, the list is endless.Blue GuidesWithout doubt, the best of the walks guides.... the Blue Guide has been around since 1918 and has extremely well designed walks with lots of unique little side stops to hit on just about any interest you have. If you want to pick up the feel of the city, this is the best book to do that for you. This is one that you end up packing on your 10th trip, by which time it is well worn.MapGuideMapGuide is very easy to use and has the best location information for hotels,

tourist attractions, museums, churches etc. that they manage to keep fairly up to date. It's great for teaching you how to use the public transportation system. The text sections are quick overviews, not reviews, but the strong suite here is brevity, not depth. I strongly recommend this for your first few times learning your way around the classic tourist sites and experiences. MapGuide is excellent as long as you are staying pretty much in the center of the city. Time Out The Time Out guides are very good. Easy reading, short reviews of restaurants, hotels, and other sites, with good public transport maps that go beyond the city centre. Many people who buy more than one guidebook end up liking this one best! Let's Go Let's Go is a great guide series that specializes in the niche interest details that turn a trip into a great and memorable experience. Started by and for college students, these guides are famous for the details provided by people who used the book the previous year. They continue to focus on providing a great experience inexpensively. If you want to know about the top restaurants, this is not for you (use Fodor's or Michelin). Let's Go does have a bewildering array of different guides though. Here's which is what: Budget Guide is the main guide with incredibly detailed information and reviews on everything you can think of. City Guide is just as intense but restricted to the single city. Pocket Guide is even smaller and features condensed information MapGuide's are very good maps with public transportation and some other information (like museum hours, etc.) Michelin Famous for their quality reviews, the Red Michelin Guides are for hotels & Restaurants, the Green Michelin Guides are for main tourist destinations. However, the English language Green guide is the one most people use and it has now been supplemented with hotel and restaurant information. These are the serious review guides as the famous Michelin ratings are issued via these books.

This book contains the bare basics one would need for a trip. It's somewhat outdated and isn't nearly as comprehensive as the Rough Guide for Tuscany and Umbria, which is a much, much better book. Had this been the only guidebook I had, my trip would have been much less enjoyable. Its information for towns in Tuscany and Umbria outside of Florence is minimal. For a much better trip, buy the Rough Guide instead.

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