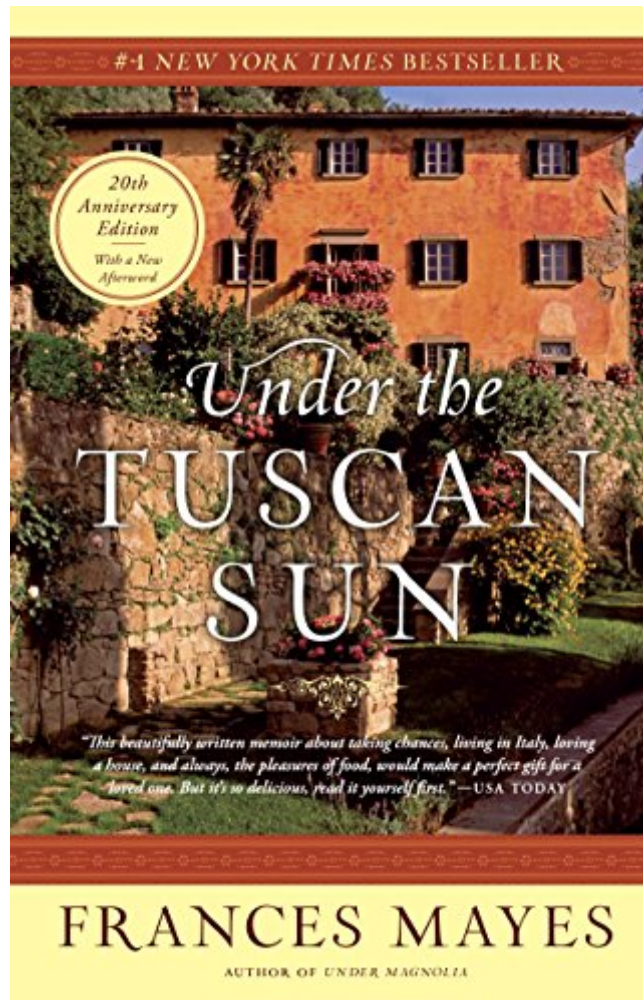




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Under The Tuscan Sun: 20th-Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

A CLASSIC FROM THE BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF UNDER MAGNOLIA Frances Mayes "widely published poet, gourmet cook, and travel writer" opens the door to a wondrous new world when she buys and restores an abandoned villa in the spectacular Tuscan countryside. In evocative language, she brings the reader along as she discovers the beauty and simplicity of life in Italy. Mayes also creates dozens of delicious seasonal recipes from her traditional kitchen and simple garden, all of which she includes in the book. Doing for Tuscany what M.F.K. Fisher and Peter Mayle did for Provence, Mayes writes about the tastes and pleasures of a foreign country with gusto and passion. Now with an excerpt from her latest southern memoir, Under Magnolia

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Customer Reviews

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 movie 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 Arugula 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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