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Dolce Via: Italy In The 1980s - Photographs



Synopsis

In his latest collection, photographer Charles H. Traub (born 1945) turns his emphatically American gaze upon the streets and byways of Italy, from Milan to Marsala. Traub's brilliant blues, reds and yellows accent the baroque posturing and gestures of strangers and ordinary people. Traub's friend and guide, the late photographer Luigi Ghirri, said of the imagery, "you see our foibles, strip us bare, make love through the camera and then venerate us." *Dolce Via* is the first comprehensive collection of these vivid color photographs, which were made in Italy during the early 1980s. This publication includes contributions from American art critic, photographer and founding editor of *Artforum*, Max Kozloff, and the Italian poet, Luigi Ballerini.

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Customer Reviews

American Street photographer Charles Traub found his muse in the Italy of the early 1980s. "I saw the country as a wondrous place for drama, display, humanity, pathos, and joy," says Traub. "All of these things were played out on the streets of every city, and my purpose was just to look." Walking through the back alleys of Venice one day, he came across two kids eating gelato by a canal, Isola di San Michele behind them. While their matching tomato-red outfits and bowl haircuts are a time stamp from 1981, their postures suggest the much older Italian idea of *dolce far niente*, the pleasure of doing nothing. (Alice Newell-Hanson *Condé Nast Traveler*) Bordering on fashion, folly, excess and the everyday, Traub's images of Italy in the 80s are bursting with life and saturated with color, and welcome the reader into a lush and vibrant whirlwind. (TIME LightBox)

The book is brilliant in every way. It illustrates the atmosphere, the dress and the social mores of Italy in the early 80's, which are all a reflection of Italy's history in the 70's. The repeating patterns in the composition of these photos is very special and makes one wonder if he is the luckiest man, or the most patient man or he has of an amazing eye for capturing the moment; it is three. This book combines a wonderful sense of humor and an obviously love of his fellow man into a captivating book not only chock full of Italian history but a beauty to look at as well.

I saw some of the pictures online and I was afraid there were only a few more on the book... I am happy to report there's a ton more, and I shed a tear when I look at them (I was born in Pisa in 1975).

Charles Traub elegantly captures Italy and the magic of its eternal existence. Insightful, enlightening and alive. Dolce Via is a great contribution to understanding how to appreciate and savor Italy's gift to the world.

photographs are nothing special. the only thing they have going for them was that they're from the 80s, otherwise completely artless in every way, and rather boring.

This book touches on the best parts of the 80s. The pictures are wonderful, rich and sincere. It paints Italy in a wonderful light, both literally and metaphorically. Cheers

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