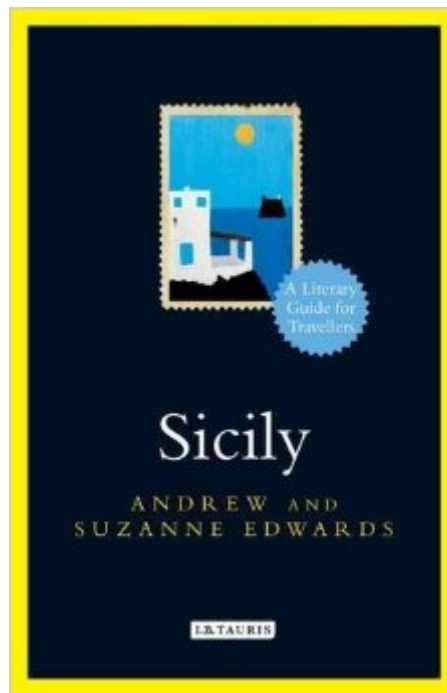


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Sicily: A Literary Guide For Travellers (The I.B.Tauris Literary Guides For Travellers)



Synopsis

Rising up from the heart of the Mediterranean, Sicily has a rich and ancient history spanning more than 2,000 years. Over 16 invading forces have walked on her shores, a bounty prized by the Greeks, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, Arabs, and Normans, among others. Sicily's violently beautiful landscapes are haunted by this vibrant mix of cultures, and her soil has always been fertile ground for the literary and artistic imagination, since ancient times to today. This compelling literary guide to Sicily is a work of literature itself, revealing the island's multifaceted personality through the experiences of those famed writers who have managed to get under her skin, including Pindar, Cicero, Aeschylus, Shakespeare, Cervantes, DH Lawrence, Coleridge, Oscar Wilde, Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams, Ezra Pound, and Lawrence Durrell; as well as local authors who have defined the modern Italian novel, including Giuseppe di Lampedusa and Leonardo Sciascia. Organized by different areas of the island, the book is filled with excerpts from the writers' works and letters, as well as extensive text features, including several photographs of notable sites on the island, a map of the regions of the island with key sites highlighted, an extensive Author Profiles section with short bios of the writers and their works, a Chronology of Sicily's cultural and political history, a bibliography for further reading, and an index for handy reference. A must-have for any literature lover and especially for tourists of the famous island, Sicily: A Literary Guide for Travellers bears witness to the beauty, pain, and power of the Sicilian cultural landscape through the words of the writers who wrote there, and will help readers discover how the potent mix of influences on the island's society have been preserved forever in literature.

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Customer Reviews

• is an alternative travel guide. It does not contain street maps, does not highlight day trips, rate transportation or list restaurants. Instead, it traces the major villages and towns of Sicily, through writers who have toured them. Many have passed through as soldiers, some were natural travelers, and some were escaping home pressures. All had a lot to say about their environs. And some got actively involved in it. What Andrew and Suzanne Edwards have leveraged is this remarkable attraction of Sicily for writers. They have tracked down seemingly every writer who visited for three thousand years. They trace visits from ancient Greece and Rome, up to modern America and Britain. The name dropping is impressive, but the research is what is really impressive. Beyond the writer's name, details from trips, and passages of their writings bring out Sicily in a very different and far more exuberant manner. The book starts in Palermo in the northwest and works its way clockwise all the way around the island, with abundant tales told by the writers as well as about them, and descriptions of where they stayed and who they met. At the back there are one paragraph profiles of the writers mentioned in the book, like actors in a play. Which is appropriate, since so many of them were storytellers. There are of course disappointments. Photos are few, even then black and white. There is very little on food, one of the pillars of Sicily's reputation. There is only one map, at the front, which just pinpoints the villages the book refers to. There is no topography, roads or waterways on it. This is a book to be read with an online map service close by. It is remarkable that it is even possible to write a literary tour of Sicily. It is even more remarkable that it has been done and is enjoyable. David Wineberg

I bought this book before traveling to Sicily and read it before, during, and now after my trip. I still can't get enough. I am in awe of the authors' ability to blend and transition the literary voices with information about place, history, biography. I am especially grateful for the bibliography. I am making my way through it. I took this photo of Mt. Etna from the roof top garden restaurant of the UNA Palace Hotel in Catania

The book is more than a simple compilation of quotes, it's a literary tour around the island in the footsteps of authors, foreign and Sicilian – everyone from Cicero to Tennessee Williams, Capote, Lawrence, Lampedusa, Verga and Sciascia. There is plenty of comment and anecdote, spiced with

a real passion for the island. Great read at home or if you're lucky enough to be in Sicily.

Just getting in to it but so far it looks like a real gem. We are hoping to visit the Island again while we still can enjoy it

Very interesting time in history not known by most ! Highly recommend!

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