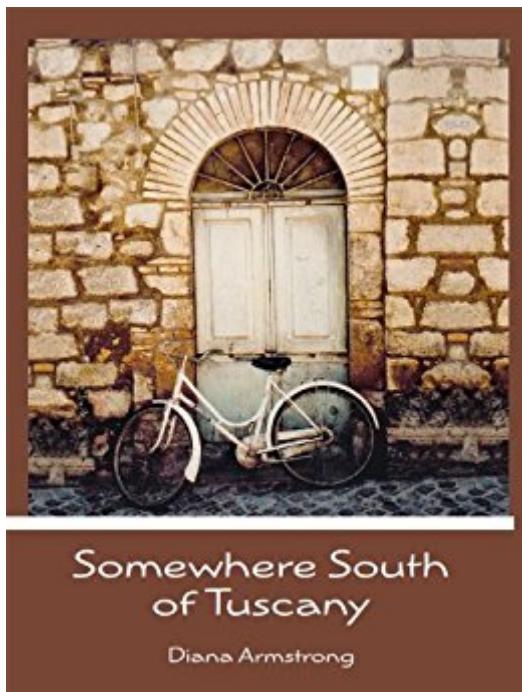


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# Somewhere South Of Tuscany



## **Synopsis**

Somewhere South of Tuscany is a feet-on-the-ground account of living and cooking in Italy, in the spectacular Italian countryside. After only one brief visit, Diana Armstrong, a cookbook author and food and travel writer, buys an ancient stone house right in the middle of the historic center of a village sandwiched between Tuscany and Umbria. Somewhere South of Tuscany is fun and witty! Of course, with Diana's culinary background, food is never very far from the surface. Diana, her husband and her family are as much concerned with their meals as they are with fixing their house. Restoring a 400 year old house in the backwoods of Italy makes for a fertile breeding ground for disasters, scrapes and a few discoveries too. (Everyone considering buying and renovating a home in Italy should ready her book!) Her culinary adventures in this Umbrian region are never very far from center stage. Diana, ever the passionate cook, provides deliciously simple recipes for all the food she mentions in the book. She gives every American cook the tools to transport themselves and their guests right into this green heart of rural Italy.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book is much like many others in the vein of: "We bought a house in Italy/France/Spain ... " Not much new here, but I thoroughly enjoyed Diana's memoir. She could have been a little clearer on her to-and-fro journeys between Italy and America -- why? We know her husband still works in America for most of the book, but it is unclear why Diana flits around. Anyway, I loved the descriptions of the people and places, and was, as always, bedazzled by the way Mediterranean people live so comfortably and casually with their thousands-year-old history! Living in a country where antiquity is of recent date, this attitude fascinates me: oh, the church is a thousand years old ... so what? So this was highly enjoyable. I was not all that interested in the recipes at the end, foodie that I am -- I more enjoy descriptions of dinners and meals in books like these. Highly recommended for those who long to be able to live in another country, if only for holidays! Loved the humor.

If you love Italy, this is not to be missed. I loved what some other reviewer disliked about this book; it is chapter after chapter of the good life in Italy. There are things to learn, characters to meet, and food and wine to wish for. Thank goodness, she includes many, many recipes. I take cooking classes every chance I get when in Italy, and this is a class in itself! I just wish I were one of her many visiting friends! I am so sorry that I have finished this book.

This was a somewhat enjoyable book. Certainly not a page turner, but definitely gave a taste of what living in a village in Italy would be like.

Easy reading, good book.

Slow reading; not enough of a story line for my liking.

Another well written book on Italy and her people. I love the sound of small village life and wonder if it will be right for us when I retire.

Don't miss this wonderful read that will make you laugh and cry as you follow the author's inexhaustible and often hilarious efforts to create a life in a small Italian village. As the author describes her navigation through the intricacies and vagaries of local law, customs, language and cooking, you get a strong sense of both her indomitable spirit and her open heart as she embraces all things Italian. The format of short stories makes it a quick, fun read and the clever way of introducing local foods first by describing the social occasion for which they are prepared and then

including the full recipe at the end will have you longing to invite friends to share a meal. Maybe this book should come with a warning. After reading, you may feel an irresistible need to visit international airline websites and/or your closest Italian grocer.

Really enjoyed this book. Ended a little abruptly, but thought it was good.

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