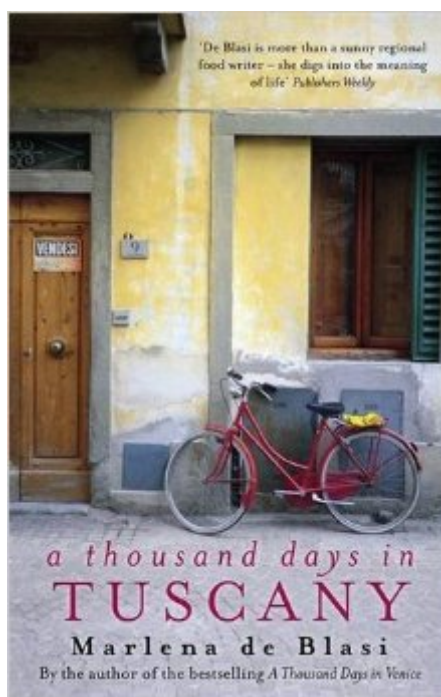


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# A Thousand Days In Tuscany: A Bittersweet Romance



## Synopsis

Continuing from *A Thousand Days in Venice*, this is the story of Marlena and her Venetian husband, Fernando, as they make a life for themselves in rural Tuscany. Amongst the many people they befriend is Barluzzo, an old sage who takes the couple under his wing and initiates them in the age-old traditions of Tuscan life: since their house lacks electricity, he helps them build a traditional brick oven in the garden; in autumn he wakes them at dawn to gather chestnuts and porcini mushrooms, and at the onset of winter he takes them to pull grapes from the vines and beat olives from the trees. Beautifully written and richly seasoned with mouth-watering recipes of the region, this book is filled with the *carpe diem* attitude that so captivated readers of *A Thousand Days in Venice*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

this is a lush, beautifully written memoir written from the heart of the writer which offers a description of a culture/life style of a small village in the hills of Tuscany, step by step as the author walks through and takes part in all the aspects of how life is lived in this village. It is a record of the life of those who must work with the land and all that it provides to provide for themselves. It also is a beautiful, honest account of the growth of her relationship with her husband. An easy and interesting read.

This is a mouth-watering book for those who enjoy really good foodwriting. de Blasi is a food writer and critic who moved to Italy and has set up her own food business there with her husband. This

book was originally titled *Dolce e Salata* - sweet and salty - which I thought was a much more suitable title. It is both about her experiences in this amazing region and the food she tasted and shares with us. In San Casciano dei Bagni, a small Tuscan village of 200 people, Marlena and her Italian husband, Fernando, rent a barely renovated former stable with no telephone, no heating and something resembling a toy kitchen. Marlena finds her muse in Barlozzo, a gruff but charming Tuscan who has lived in San Casciano all of his life. He guides Marlena and Fernando in exploring the old rhythms of country life that are linked to the growing seasons. Barlozzo's fascinating stories lead Marlena and Fernando to the regional sacred festivals, to taste just-pressed olive oil drizzled over roasted country bread, and zucchini blossoms, battered and deep fried and sprayed with sea-salted water. Barlozzo shares his knowledge of farming traditions, ancient health potions and artisan food makers but he has secrets he doesn't share, and one of them concerns the beautiful Floriana, whose illness teaches Marlena that happiness is truly a choice. Beautifully combining Marlena's passions for food and love. This combines Marlena's own enticing recipes with her travels and makes a very satisfying story

For 15 years we have spent three months in Tuscany. This book captures so authentically the life there, more than any other of the ten books I have read on Tuscany.

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