



Italians Dance and I'm a Wallflower

By Linda Falcone

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Welcome to Italy, where spring breezes are a threat and political turnover is a promise. In a country where words are the most common music and gestures the most frequent dance, find out why wishing someone good luck attracts its polar opposite and why foods served on the same plate best be color-coordinated. Drawn from her column in *The Florentine*, Linda Falcone's vignettes take readers on an exhilarating ramble through Italy's life and language, both conjuring its beauties and unriddling its beasts. Size up and side-step the country's curious taboos and tune into its unbounded appeal with this book that's smart enough for the veteran traveler and light enough for the newly arrived. These colorful stories prove that laughter is the surefire antidote to culture shock and that language is the most effective window through which to see the world.

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Editorial Review

Review

I started reading excerpts from this book in an Italian newspaper and was excited to see that Amazon was selling it. If you've ever lived or visited Italy and wondered about some of those things that just didn't translate too well- then this book finally makes it clear. --By Joyce Costello (Camp Darby, Italy)

This book was inspired by Falcone's column in The Florentine, Italian Voices: A Window on Language and Customs in Italy. Both her column and this book describe the mentality, temperament, and identity of Italians. In Falcone's book, each anecdote is visually portrayed as well with pictures drawn by Leo Cardini that perfectly illustrate the figurative meaning of each expression. This book makes the otherwise inconvenient communication barriers easily manageable. As "language is one of the most immediate ways to get to know a culture," this book is a useful tool to help ease the stress of culture shock while also proving to be a carefree read even to Italians, who would enjoy a look at themselves through Falcone's eyes. I recommend reading this book all in one sitting; must-reads include "Dipende" and "Prego." A lighthearted, fun read, this is also a book that you can pick up and put back down. In a world where communication is essential, this book provides a stronger knowledge of the Italian culture while breaking down the barriers that inhibit the very thing this book is all about: communication. --By Elizabeth Marie France (Cleveland, OH)

If you are Italian or have ever visited Italy, this is a look into the true beliefs and superstitions of Italians. It guides them in their every day life. Its funny and charming. An enjoyable read --By Nonna (Massachusetts)

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About the Author

Born in northern California and raised in a bi-cultural family, Linda Falcone is currently celebrating two decades of permanent Italian living. An ex-language teacher who loves the rhythm of irregular verbs as much as the sound of the rain on the roof, she is a lecturer of Italian culture and travel writing for American university programs in Italy. She is also an investigator of idioms, leaving few phrases unturned during her seven-year stint as a cultural columnist for *The Florentine*. Since 2009, Linda has served as director of the Advancing Women Artists Foundation and co-authored several books and documentaries on women artists including *Art by Women in Florence: A Guide through Five Hundred Years* and *When the World Answered: Florence, Women Artists and the 1966 Flood*.

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