CONSERVANCY TRAVEL

ITALY

Reading, Film and Podcasts

Focus on Venice, the Veneto, Trentino and South Tyrol / Alto Adige

Fiction

***Death at La Fenice*, Donna Leon.** The first Commissario Guido Brunetti mystery begins with a death at Venice's famous opera house. An engaging introduction to the city's neighborhoods, institutions and everyday Venetian life.

***The Glassblower of Murano*, Marina Fiorato.** Historical fiction moving between 17th-century Murano and modern Venice, with the island's glassmaking craft at the center of a family mystery.

***Eva Sleeps*, Francesca Melandri.** A compelling family saga grounded in the difficult 20th-century history of South Tyrol/Alto Adige, exploring language, identity and the region's relationship with Italy.

***The Talented Mr. Ripley*, Patricia Highsmith.** A psychological suspense classic set partly in Venice and other Italian destinations; an atmospheric, darker portrait of mid-century travel in Italy.

***The Eight Mountains*, Paolo Cognetti.** An award-winning story of friendship and belonging in the Italian Alps. Set outside this itinerary's Dolomites region, but an evocative companion to northern Italy's mountain landscapes.

Non-Fiction, History and Travel Writing

***The City of Falling Angels*, John Berendt.** An absorbing portrait of contemporary Venetian society that begins with the 1996 fire at La Fenice opera house and unfolds through encounters with the city's distinctive residents.

***Venice: A New History*, Thomas F. Madden.** An accessible account of Venice's rise as a maritime republic, its wealth and artistic achievements, and its enduring place in European history.

***Venice Is a Fish: A Sensual Guide*, Tiziano Scarpa.** A Venetian writer invites readers to experience his city through its sounds, textures, streets and everyday rituals rather than conventional sightseeing.

***A Venetian Affair*, Andrea di Robilant.** A true story of forbidden romance in 18th-century Venice, reconstructed from family letters and set against the social world of the old republic.

The Land Where Lemons Grow, **Helena Attlee.** An engaging journey through Italy's citrus traditions, linking landscape, agriculture, food and cultural history; especially appealing for travelers interested in Italian regional identity.

Maps and Guides

DK Venice and the Veneto, **DK Travel.** A richly illustrated regional guide with maps, cultural background and information on Venice, Lake Garda, the Veneto and nearby Dolomite landscapes.

Lonely Planet Italian Phrasebook & Dictionary, **Lonely Planet.** A convenient source of everyday Italian expressions; in South Tyrol, German is also widely spoken alongside Italian.

Films and Documentaries

Summertime (1955), **Directed by David Lean.** Katharine Hepburn plays an American visitor falling in love with Venice. An evocative period portrait of the city, its canals and public spaces.

Bread and Tulips (Pane e tulipani, 2000), **Directed by Silvio Soldini.** A warm Italian comedy about a woman who unexpectedly finds a new life in Venice, well beyond the city's usual tourist landmarks.

The Tourist (2010), **Directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck.** A lighthearted thriller starring Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp, with Venice and its waterways providing much of the visual spectacle.

The Eight Mountains (2022), **Directed by Felix van Groeningen and Charlotte Vandermeersch.** A moving adaptation of Cognetti's novel, beautifully filmed in the Italian Alps. The setting is not South Tyrol, but its themes resonate with the mountain regions on this journey.

Podcasts and Audio Resources

Untold Italy Travel Podcast, **Hosted by Katy Clarke.** Conversations with local experts on Italian food, culture, regional traditions and travel. Search the episode library for Venice, the Dolomites and northern Italy.

Rick Steves Italy / Audio Europe, **Rick Steves Europe.** Practical cultural introductions and downloadable audio walks, including Venice, for independent background listening before travel.

The Bittersweet Life, **Katy Sewall and Tiffany Parks.** Thoughtful conversations about Italian culture, daily life and the experience of living abroad, offering a personal perspective beyond guidebook highlights.