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Full Griswold: Stories From A Honeymoon In Italy



Synopsis

Humor columnist Joe Donatelli shares stories from his honeymoon in Italy, a journey that included memorable visits to Rome, Florence, Tuscany and a bidet. Donatelli's humor columns have appeared in Cracked, the Los Angeles Times, Salon and Scripps-Howard. For more info go to www.thehumorcolumnist.com. Excerpt: We took one of Italy's main highways, the A1, which Italians call "The Motorway of the Sun" because much like the sun Italian drivers do not look directly at the motorway. It was on A1 that I gained keen insights into the mind of the Italian driver. There were two types of Italian drivers. There were drivers who plodded down the highway in small car-like vehicles that couldn't actually be cars because cars should not be able to fit inside a bathtub. Then there were those who drove at speeds one normally associates with Vin Diesel and Michelle Rodriguez. The slow drivers who saw faster drivers approaching from behind pulled as far over to the right as possible, as if to say, "A thorough inspection of this automobile may reveal that it does not technically have an engine. Please pass me." The fast drivers who passed the slow drivers were bold. When an Italian driver wanted to pass, he did so at approximately the moment his front bumper made contact with the slower car's rear bumper. Then, even when he had the entire left lane to himself and no oncoming traffic, he passed the slower car in its own lane. When his car cleared, he pulled inches in front of the slower car, presumably to hear the screams. Why are Italian drivers crazy? I think part of the answer had to do with the fact that Italian gas stations contain bars. I also think it had something to do with the fact that many highway speeds are approximately 43 miles per hour (70 km/h). Also, the police cars in Italy are tiny and adorable to the point where you kind of feel pity for them. On the plus side, and I can't recommend this enough, we got to experience Italian radio. The songs are in the original English, but the disc jockeys speak Italian. We switched to a station and heard the end of a song followed by a smooth voice saying, "All vostro pomeriggio ringraziamenti completi da mantenere sul amore voi da REO Speedwagon!"

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Customer Reviews

Even though the author has bought me Christmas presents for the past 30+ years doesn't mean I won't be completely honest. This collection of stories is hilarious and well worth your \$0.99, but more important than that, these stories are worth your precious reading time. Joe is a humorous storyteller and his outlook on the world is a gift to us readers. Buy it, read it, enjoy it, share it!

As someone who has read several Bill Bryson books, I know a little about humorous travel writing. Joe Donatelli is no Bill Bryson. Instead, he's funny without being ridiculous, honest without exaggeration, and concise without unnecessary musings. This is a wee little book that packs in the laughs and leaves you wanting more.

I agree with the reviewer that stated that he wants more! This book is funny, engaging, and a great quick read! I would love to hear more stories about the trip! The author's realistic humor and concise writing style makes for a book you do not want to put down! How about another installment, Joe?

Want to know what makes an everlasting marriage? Humor. These stories are filled with love, passion, confusion, and an overflowing amount of humor that leads a honeymoon couple on a hilarious trip through Italy. What a fantastic read!!!

The writing is not only fantastic, it's funny as hell. You are learning something and laughing at the same time. I didn't want to put my iPhone down, no joke.

This book keeps you entertained the whole way through. Now I want to go to Italy, eat, drink, and ride a bike!!

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