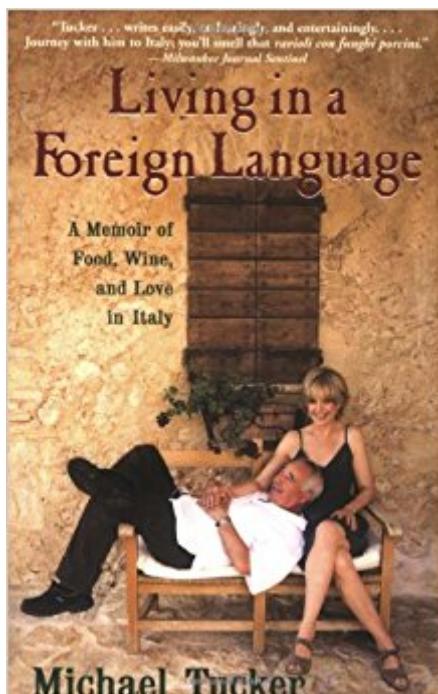


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# Living In A Foreign Language: A Memoir Of Food, Wine, And Love In Italy



## Synopsis

The actor Michael Tucker and his wife, the actress Jill Eikenberry, having sent their last child off to college, were vacationing in Italy when they happened upon a small cottage nestled in the Umbrian countryside. The three-hundred-and-fifty-year-old Rustico sat perched on a hill in the verdant Spoleto valley amid an olive grove and fruit trees of every kind. For the Tuckers, it was literally love at first sight, and the couple purchased the house without testing the water pressure or checking for signs of termites. Shedding the vestiges of their American life, Michael and Jill endeavored to learn the language, understand the nuances of Italian culture, and build a home in this new chapter of their lives. Both a celebration of a good marriage and a careful study of the nature of home, *Living in a Foreign Language* is a gorgeous, organic travelogue written with an epicureanâ™s delight in detail and a gourmandâ™s appreciation for all things fine.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this lighthearted memoir by television's former L.A. Law star, Tucker delve graciously into the rich lifestyle, cuisine and local wine of central Italy when he and his wife, actress Jill Eikenberry, make an impromptu purchase of a 350-year-old stone cottage in the Umbrian countryside. The Tuckers break away from the Bay Area to acquaint themselves with the Rustico, their new second home. Despite speaking limited Italian, they quickly befriend their expatriate and Italian neighbors and with them set out to celebrate the regional cuisine found in local trattorias, tavernas and the aromatic kitchens of new acquaintances. Language gaffes and the occasional couple's spat is to be expected, as the Tuckers begin to re-evaluate their lives. The simplicity and heartiness of Umbria

begins to feel more like home for them, and little by little the Tuckers let go of their more career-ambitious lives in the U.S. Jill's revitalization of her theater career in New York becomes as much of an accomplishment as her taking art classes with 16 non-English-speaking Italian housewives. Tucker simply appreciates his relationships forged with Gloria, the owner of the local orta-frutta shop and the town's butchers. Guileless narrative intertwined with generous descriptions of Italian fare make Tucker's food memoir and travelogue a satisfying look into the good life. (July) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Driving through Italy, television actors Michael Tucker and Jill Eikenberry and her young Korean^B assistant are seduced by the stately, relaxed pace of Italian life. Swapping their dream of a house in Provence for an Italian venue, they find a friend's home for sale near Spoleto, and Tucker quickly seals a deal. The delights of Italian food awaken Tucker's latent epicure. His determined compulsion to savor every edible raised on local farms ultimately obliges him to spend some serious hours at the local gym. Returning for a time to their California home, they want to share their love of Italian food by hosting a dinner party, but egocentric American friends can't even gracefully accept this generous invitation, citing a catalog of dietary restrictions and food fears. Foodies will slaver and bristle with envy at the surfeit of pungently fresh truffles that appear at seemingly every meal. Mark KnoblauchCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

During a stressful time in my life, when I needed to escape without actually leaving home, this book came into my life. I have visited Italy once in my life and fell head over heels in love with it. From the food, to the wine, to the art, history, natural beauty, culture and people-what a truly wonderful place! This book helped me to return to a place I truly love. At times it brought tears to my eyes to feel transported by this book. It is a very well written and relatable book. You feel like you are there and you get a real taste of 'la dolce vita'. Didn't want it to end! Thank you, Michael Tucker, for sharing your experience in this book.

"The tiny stone house sits tucked into the side of the hill so that our bedroom window isn't exposed to the early rays of the sun, but that morning I was up with the first soft light in the sky. I had slept the sleep of the sated. Perhaps the three glasses of grappa at the end of dinner had helped a bit with that. Along with the bottomless pitcher of the local red wine that went down so easily with the

wood-grilled lamb and the fried potatoes. God, those potatoes. Maybe it was all a dream; I never eat potatoes after a big bowl of pasta. Not in the same meal. Not in real life."For anyone who loves to savor the joys that fresh, well-prepared food has to offer,Â Living in a Foreign Language: A Memoir of Food, Wine, and Love in ItalyÂ will make you yearn for the Italian countryside as you salivate with longing for the culinary experiences shared by Michael Tucker and his actress wife. In the early years of this new millenia, Tucker finally gets his wish. His wife, Jill Eikenberry, gives him the go-ahead to purchase a home in Umbria, and their lives have never been the same since.Â Living in a Foreign Language: A Memoir of Food, Wine, and Love in ItalyÂ is Tucker's memoir of the couple's lives during the purchase and renovation of their beloved Italian country home, and the way that purchase helped to change the direction of their personal and professional lives.Tucker is funny, honest and totally himself in this treasure of a book. I loved his experiences in Italy - the food, the wine, the friends and the countryside. It's a lot like sitting with someone and having them tell you a good story. Don't expect historical background or vivid prose-like descriptions. Do expect Tucker's own language - the "f" bombs scattered across the pages, apparently come with the story and the man.

I really did enjoy this book for the most part, although the author/actor Michael Tucker seems like an insufferable ass. (Jill Eikenberry seems fairly nice, though). "L.A. Law" used to be one of my favorite shows in the '80s, which is why I picked up this book in the first place. It was fun to hear about the actor couple's adventures/misadventures and life living in Italy, although Mr. Tucker used the phrase "ex-pat" so very much that I now cannot bear to hear it! (Also, the way in which he absolved himself and Jill for the affair that broke up his first marriage/family is disgusting). He had such a "la-la-la...these things happen" attitude about it all, that I nearly stopped reading right then and there. AND the way he and Jill spoke about how ashamed they are to be Americans made me heartily wish I had their phone number, so I could call them up and scream "THEN STAY IN ITALY!!" Despite these drawbacks, it was worth reading the book, I thought. (Yes, I am a pretty tolerant reader). There are some fun stories about Italy here, even though you may want to kick Michael Tucker in the pants several times while reading!

Well written story of the lives of two people as they make the transition from their American way of life to their Italian way of lives. They made the change together with no apparent difficulties as a lesson to face new challenges head on. As my wife and I prepare to uproot our lives of almost 70 years in the northeast with a move to Florida, I find that following Michael Tucker's attitude along

with his wife Jill Eijenberg the move will be a great new adventure in our lives.

Since our first trip to Italy in 2007, my wife and I knew what would be our next life adventure. Since then, we have been looking to purchase a retirement flat in Italy. We have looked in many towns, but after reading this book, Umbria seems like the area we have pictured in our minds eye. Needless to say, there is much trepidation about such a move, but we want a new life adventure. Reading this book was like having a supportive friend who keeps telling you that it's going to be a great move and here is all the information you need to help with your decision. The book is an easy read. It's very much like sitting down with Mr. Tucker and exchanging ideas (and recipe's!). If you are all considering a move to Italy, this is a must read.

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