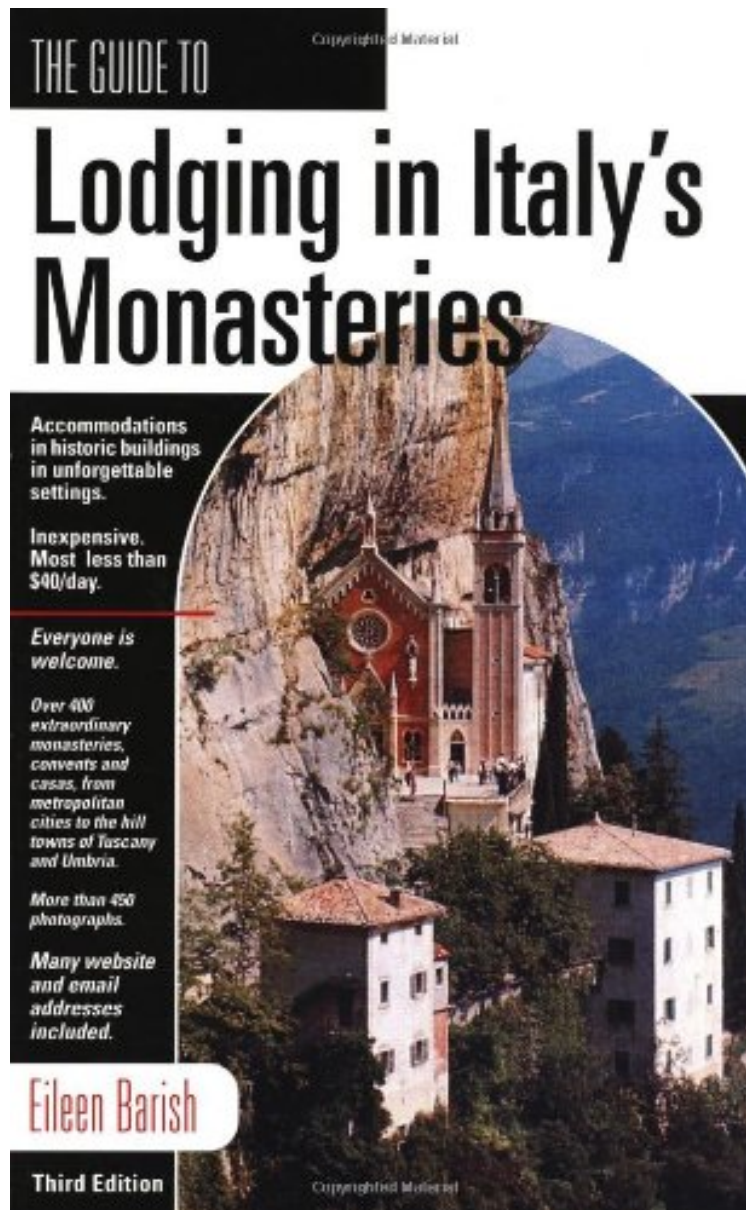


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GD LODGING IN ITALY'S MONASTERIES, 3rd (Guide to Lodging in Italy's Monasteries)

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First Last : GD LODGING IN ITALY'S MONASTERIES, 3rd (Guide to Lodging in Italy's Monasteries) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised GD LODGING IN

ITALY'S MONASTERIES, 3rd (Guide to Lodging in Italy's Monasteries):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not that useful anymore. By R. Kersey I bought a copy of the 3rd edition because I have a copy of the 1st and wanted to update now that I will be traveling to Italy soon. There are some problems with this edition. First, the maps prefacing the listings in each region have been removed, so that you have to refer to a map you've found elsewhere to determine where in the region the particular lodging is. Since many are in small towns, a lodging near your destination may be available, but you don't know until you've tracked down the towns listed in that region. Second, the lodging prices for many places have risen drastically since the 1st edition and they are no longer a great bargain, especially considering the current availability of airbnb, vrbo and other similar sites. I found lodging outside Rome at airbnb for \$27/nite and the landlord would arrange pickup from the airport and lodgings for other towns for similar rates. It's hard to imagine the monasteries beating this by much, most do not arrange pickup and some have requirements for returning by a certain hour at night, maintaining quiet at times, etc. Also, there are still a large number of monastery listings where the cost is listed as "to be determined," which means you would have to contact them and receive a return message before knowing the cost. This isn't very convenient. Further, with airbnb you have a picture of your host and some reviews that add current information. In summary, I'd spend my money on a different travel book or travel guide and book through some Internet site such as airbnb. While you're at it, investigate ride sharing through blablacar... 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Useful By Robert E. Kaffer This book is useful. We stayed in several guest houses in the book as we drove in northern Italy. I would recommend it but would also make three observations. First, some of the directions are not sufficiently detailed or clear. I think this is a significant weakness of the book. We spent quite a bit of time finding some of the guest houses. Second, understandably, some of the prices are out of date but the places still are bargains. Third, in some of those where we stayed, the people did not speak English. This was not a problem as our Italian is marginally passable but don't expect English to be spoken at all of them, especially on the phone. Nevertheless, I have recommended it to several friends who plan to go to Italy and I will get the latest edition when we go again. It is an investment because the rates are much better than hotels. The proprietors are trustworthy and virtually all of them are just very nice people. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful guide By Okitsmegramma We stayed in 3 different Convents in 3 different cities and each was exactly what I expected from the descriptions in this book. With all the research I did online I couldn't find the information that was in this book. They list email addresses where available and phone numbers. Staying in Convents and Monasteries made our trip more meaningful. It was wonderful waking up in the morning and being able to attend Mass with the sisters and have tasty breakfast to follow. The grounds were all beautiful with nice quiet gardens. We had a very enjoyable trip to Italy and this book helped make it happen.

Staying at an Italian monastery is an exceptional experience that allows travelers to enjoy an unspoiled, more traditional Italy. For about \$30 a day -- often including meals -- a monastery vacation is filled with Italy's rich history, spectacular architecture and quaint local customs. Although Europeans have long enjoyed this inexpensive alternative to costly hotels, the unique opportunity of staying in a monastery is relatively unknown. Now, American tourists have access to this remarkable resource. The comprehensive, new third edition is the key to planning an unforgettable adventure that combines true value with gracious hosts. "All monasteries revisited for up-to-date information" "Monastery websites and email for easy reservations" "Dozens of new institutions added" "Over 200 monasteries in separate section for retreats Plus: "Complete contact information including phone fax "Italian and English reservation form letters "Driving and public transportation directions Highly recommended. -- Library Journal This guide will intrigue travelers on a strict budget looking for a holiday with a twist. -- Budget Traveler

From Library Journal "Monasteries," Barish writes, "are an integral part of Italy's history and heritage and symbolize the incredibly diverse Italian culture." By conducting extensive research at each monastery, Barish has compiled a directory of detailed, precise information for a unique Italian experience: an inexpensive travel alternative to staying in big-name hotels. Each listing provides a history of the monastery, its artwork, and products as well as local events. The travel information Accommodations, amenities, cost, directions by car/train/plane, and contact names and addresses is clearly written. Barish also adds a personal touch by including reservation form letters written in English and Italian. The photographs accompanying each listing are enticing and breathtakingly beautiful. More detailed and easier to use than June and Anne Walsh's *Bed and Blessings Italy: A Guide to Convents and Monasteries Available for Overnight Lodging* (LJ 11/15/98), this directory is highly recommended for public libraries. A Stephanie Papa, Baltimore Cty. Circuit Court Lib. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Being a guest at a monastery brings the tourist closer to the Italian people, to our food, lifestyle, country and language. -- Sister Francesca About the Author Eileen Barish is the award-winning author of many unique travel guides. Recipient of numerous awards, her books have been reviewed by over 500 newspapers and periodicals worldwide. A contributing writer to national

magazines such as National Geographic Traveler and Newsweek, she is a frequent guest on CNN and other networks.