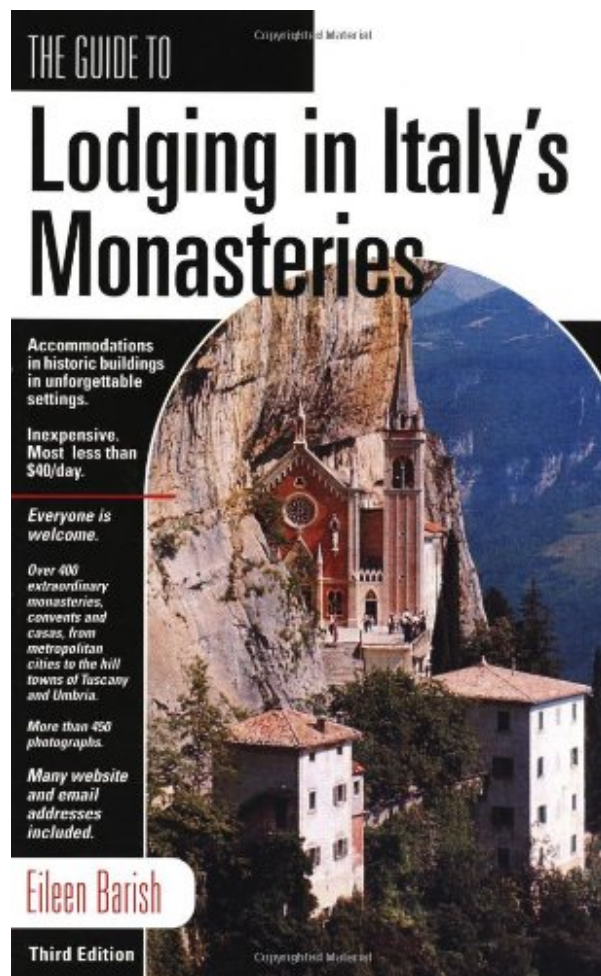


# GD LODGING IN ITALY'S MONASTERIES, 3RD (GUIDE TO LODGING IN ITALY'S MONASTERIES) BY FIRST LAST



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THE GUIDE TO

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# Lodging in Italy's Monasteries

Accommodations in historic buildings in unforgettable settings.

Inexpensive. Most less than \$40/day.

Everyone is welcome.

Over 400 extraordinary monasteries, convents and casas, from metropolitan cities to the hill towns of Tuscany and Umbria.

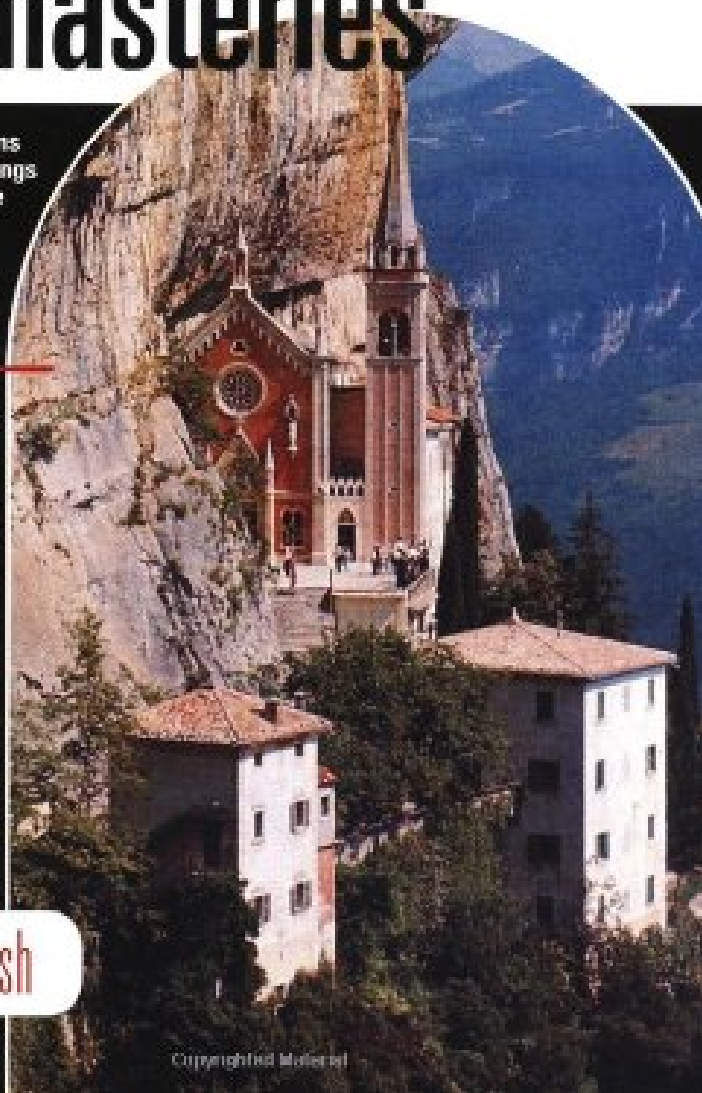
More than 450 photographs.

Many website and email addresses included.

Eileen Barish

Third Edition

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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 informationAaccommodations, amenities, cost, directions by car/train/plane, and contact names and addressesAis 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.AStephanie Papa, Baltimore Cty. Circuit Court Lib.  
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Review

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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.

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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

- Sales Rank: #190323 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Anacapa Pr
- Published on: 2015-02-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.00" w x 6.00" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 100 pages

## Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

From Library Journal

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## About the Author

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## Most helpful customer reviews

70 of 70 people found the following review helpful.

Good reference

By Tim Adams

I absolutely disagree with the book's critics. (CORRECTED)

We have used this book to identify lodging possibilities on several trips to Italy. I have found the contact information a good starting point. Perhaps I am showing my age, but I never rely on only one source for any information. We verify everything.

Every directory has some minor flaws. That's why you need to use information from directories with an open mind. For example, on one occasion, a fax number was answered repeatedly by a human. On a hunch, I sent the fax to the "voice" number, and it was promptly answered by the fax. Either the numbers were switched in the directory, or the numbers were correct and the equipment was switched. Either way, no problem. In another case, we found that one convent had been severely damaged by an earthquake and was not accepting reservations.

As far as the rooms go, we have stayed in over 10 Italian convents and monasteries in the last few years. Some were relatively modern and some date back to the 11th century. Generally, convents and monasteries are in the old sections of the cities and provide more realistic experiences within the culture.

We do not expect the convents and monasteries to be a four-star hotels, nor have several hundred Euro nightly rates. Most of the rooms were modest. (One was luxurious, even by US standards.) All had modern bathrooms in the room, (except one which was 10 feet down the hall). All were very clean and orderly with good security. Some had late (or no) curfews. Some even had television.

We are quite satisfied with the accommodations because we use our room only for reflection and rest, and spend most of the time exploring Italian culture and history.

As far as getting more information on the potential lodgings, we simply plug the name of the convent into a search engine and often we are directed to a web-site for that facility, or at least that order. If you score a hit with the search engine, you may be able to conduct your transactions on-line or via e-mail. But, again, the information in this guide helps you get started with your research, by giving you the names and locations.

This book simply starts you in the right direction by telling you where to look. If I expected all my questions to be answered without having to do research, I'd consult a travel agent.

Please keep in mind that it may be helpful to send faxes during Italian business hours. Some of the convents and monasteries seem to turn their faxes off during their night-time hours. This was quite aggravating until I figured it out and send my faxes (successfully) at a different hour. Also, if there is a technical problem, their fax may be out of service for several days (or longer).

Buon viaggio, signori e signore!

76 of 78 people found the following review helpful.

sophistication on the budget

By A Customer

I originally bought the book because I needed suggestions for low cost accommodations for my next trip. After I read the book, I ended up planning the whole vacation around the theme "Monasteries in Italy". The brief but rich info on the history, art, location, traditions, makes the monasteries and convents in this book a most desirable spot to visit for themselves. The author gives all the practical info needed (price, directions, people to contact, restrictions that may apply) for a successful lodging in the most sought after locations in Italy, as well as in the most remote, pristine places. This book is by far the richest and the most helpful when it comes to convent lodgings in Italy.

36 of 37 people found the following review helpful.

useful guide to alternative accommodation

By Robert J. Crawford

You can stay in monasteries - not as a religious retreat - in Italy for very little money and easy availability. This book is the best resource available for it in English.

However, as a guide book, the info it offers beyond addresses and telephone numbers, is not great. These places vary greatly in quality and price. Moreover, no directions to get to them - and they are in odd corners of Italy! - are offered, which means you will have trouble EVERY time you try to find one.

Recommended, but make sure you have a bevy of other guide books with you for more detailed info.

See all 23 customer reviews...

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