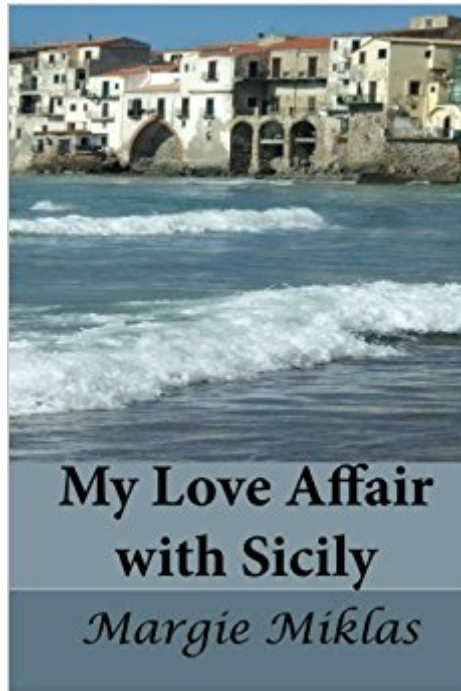




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My Love Affair With Sicily



Synopsis

As a second-generation Italian-American, Margie grew up knowing her Sicilian grandparents and always felt a closeness to the Sicilian cultural traditions which were maintained by her family. Not until a few years ago, when Margie had grandchildren of her own, did she travel to Sicily for the first time. Here, she felt at home. She fell in love with the people and the culture. She has returned to Sicily over and over again, and recounts her experiences in this true story, with passion and love for her ancestors' homeland. You will feel as if you are traveling alongside Margie as she travels to different places in Sicily, explores the village of her grandparents, and connects with new friends whom she believes to be family.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Margie Miklas is a writer, photographer, and critical-care nurse, who has a passion for travel, with a particular love of Italy and all things Italian. She writes for La Gazzetta Italiana, a monthly newspaper based in her home town of Cleveland, Ohio. Margie works part-time in a cardiovascular intensive care unit, and looks ahead to retirement later this year. She is always seeking out opportunities to travel, especially to Italy. She lives in Port St Lucie, Florida, where she enjoys spending time with her twin granddaughters, as well as going to the beach when she is not writing. Margie writes a blog, [margieinitaly](#), where you can follow her adventures throughout Italy. My Love Affair with Sicily is Margie's second book and is based on her personal experiences during five separate trips to this region of Italy. She is currently writing her first novel, Critical Cover-Up, a medical thriller.

I purchased Margie Miklas's book, *My Love Affair with Sicily*, hoping it would be an inspiration for me to plan my own trip this summer to visit my family town of Ragusa Sicily. And, I have to say that it was! I truly enjoyed reading this book! Margie writes in clear, easy-to-read prose that keeps the pages turning from one travel episode to the next. The stories in each chapter contain the memories she has accumulated during her many trips to Sicily from 2007-2013. Since the book is a travelogue, we learn first where she is planning to visit, with whom, and then actually follow her on her day to day adventures in Sicily. We encounter Sicily through Margie Miklas's eyes. She sees the beautiful, the good, and the sometimes not-so-good. As is always the case when one travels the world and encounters new cultures. I was glad that this book is realistic, as so many travel sites show only the beautiful, dreamy side of Italy. It helped me greatly to learn her discovery that the drive she took down the autostrada from Salerno to Sicily is always under construction and very difficult to navigate, but the route from Rome to Salerno down the Amalfi coast is truly spectacular and considered the best highway in Italy. Miklas also slips in historic notes about places she visits. I learned that the Teatro Massimo in Palermo is the largest stage in Italy and renowned for perfect acoustics and then was able to follow her on a tour through the theater as well. My favorite chapters are at the end of the book, when Miklas encounters opera for the first time, and we are able to join her for *The Barber of Seville*. The book is peppered with Italian and Sicilian phrases, which adds to the over-all charming mood, and also helps with reading Italian menus. For instance, we learn that *casarecce* means homemade in Sicilian and *casarecce alla norma* is a typical Sicilian dish made with tomatoes, fried eggplant, grated ricotta cheese, and basil. There are even travel tips, like how to insert an Italian SIM card into an American cell phone to make telephone calls economically. My only regret is that we never learn how her Sicilian relative Angela enjoyed her stay in the United States in 2007; Angela surprised Miklas and they both rode together on a flight from Sicily back to the United States. But, I guess this is a story for another time! All told, the book remains upbeat despite some of the difficulties Miklas encounters, and it is clear that *My Love Affair with Sicily* was, written by someone who truly loves to travel and learn about other people and how they really live. It was heartwarming to read about her meetings with her Sicilian family and see how she came to know them better over time and many visits. Miklas's book has this to offer and so much more! After reading Miklas's book, I can't wait to start my own love affair with Sicily!

I liked this book very much. It is a very easy read and the descriptions of the towns, villages, and areas visited were very good, giving you a real sense of what you may expect if you went there. There are also very good accommodation recommendations that I have checked out online and are helpful for a potential trip to Sicily. The one piece of advice I would give Margie, the author, is the next time you invite a friend to travel with you, leave your friend Sue at home! Sue was either sick, injured, holdup in the hotel, or complaining about something, especially not liking to be around Margie's Sicilian family and friends because she didn't understand their language! It began to be very tiring reading about Sue's drama! Maybe she should only travel in english speaking counties in the future!

Always enjoy an adventure into Italy since I feel in love with its country and people not so long ago. I loved the book and the adventure into Sicily, a side where I haven't gone and look forward to going! I have read Margie's books that feature her love affair with Italy and having been there, her books continue to feed mine. I have travelled through many area's that I have not literally gone yet in this book of Sicily, and met her friends that somehow through the pages almost feel like they have become my friends, beginning to know them and yet never met them. Her love not only for her ancestry, but for the country itself and more important the wonderful people of Italy shines through with great abandon. I wish her continued success in her literary journey, and all personal endeavors and look forward to many more days of reading about her travels as she begins a new season within her life while maintaining the desire to explore.

I admit, I am a sucker for anything having to do with travel in Italy. That said, of course I enjoyed Margie's Sicilian memoir! The author pays attention to such detail that you really do feel like you are a travel companion on this trip. You share in the happiness of Margie spending time with Sicilian family/friends, as well as feel the disappointment when she finds out that she will not be able to visit the home that her grandfather lived in. It is evident that Margie has a deep affection and appreciation for her heritage and for the beauty of all things Italian. You can't help but want to pack a bag and book a trip to Sicily after reading her book! Catie Costa

Anyone planning a trip to Sicily will find this book enjoyable. Not so much a "how to" as it is a nice narrative of her trip. She definitely inspires what I find to be the best approach to travel in Sicily - do a little research but leave the way and your mind open to the nice surprises you will come across

with the right mindset.

I truly enjoyed reading this! It took me away to Sicily during this wintery New York weekend. I love reading and writing travel memoirs. This is def one of my faves. Highly recommend!

I loved this book! With my upcoming trip to Sicily, Margie gave me such insight and tips that are not in typical travel guide books. They surely will enhance my trip. Through her writing, I feel like I have already been there.

Easy reading and good insights into life in Sicily

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