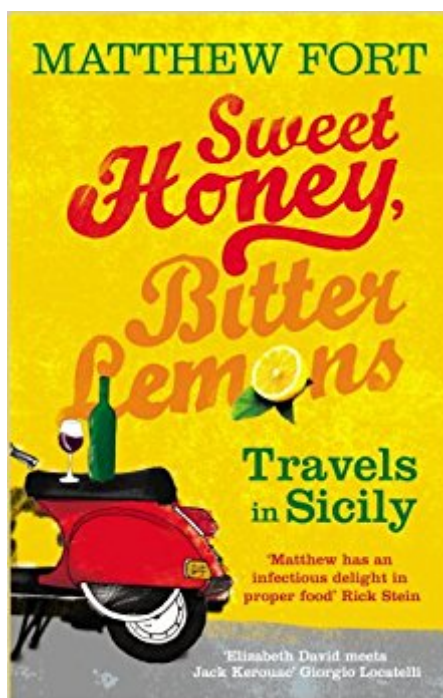


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Sweet Honey, Bitter Lemons: Travels In Sicily On A Vespa



Synopsis

At the age of twenty-six Matthew Fort first visited the Italian island of Sicily. He and his brother arrived in 1973 expecting sun, sea and good food, but they were totally unprepared for the lifelong effect of this most extraordinary of Mediterranean islands. Thirty years later, older and a bit wiser - but no less greedy - Matthew finally returns. Travelling around the island on his scooter, Monica, he samples almond ice cream on the spectacular coast and intoxicating mouthfuls of sausage stew in olive groves, and goes fishing for anchovies beneath a star-scattered sky. Matthew is drawn once again to the intensity of life in Sicily, its dramatic landscape and traditions, and discovers how the island's vibrant food culture is intertwined with its often turbulent past.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Attention lavished on Tuscany and the north of Italy has sometimes left Sicily languishing in travel literature's backwaters. Sicily's role as cradle of the Mafia and its separateness from the rest of the peninsula have also worked against it. On the other hand, the island's rich history and unique amalgamation of African and European elements in its cultural patrimony make it perfect for the curious tourist. Aiming to give the place its proper due, Fort's intimate portrait of modern Sicily introduces readers to the characters that enliven the place. Fort describes two journeys aboard his Vespa: one in spring, bisecting the isle from west to east; another in autumn, circumnavigating the coast. His narrative finds unity in the fabulous varieties of the foods he consumes along his way. Intensely proud and partisan, Sicilians argue the relative merits of sausages produced in towns just a few miles apart. Recipes conclude each chapter. --Mark

Knoblauch --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Witty and romantic" Metro "An accomplished piece of travel writing that makes you want to explore the island all for yourself" Sunday Express "Perfect summer holiday reading" The Bookseller
"Matthew has an infectious delight in proper food" Rick Stein "The finest book on this fascinating cuisine since Peter Robb's *Midnight in Sicily*" -- Christopher Hirst The Independent

Intriguing odyssey by an author whose literary skills, power of observance and passion for good food put him in a class with Waugh and Wodehouse. At once you are filled with the sumptuous meals of Sicily shared with locals and then lulled into an afternoon nap beneath an olive grove. So much more than a book about food. Humor, self examination, the ability to admit one's foibles and always the recipes for authentic Italian food. You will feel full after each chapter, but hungry for the next meal

Some of the book gets a little boring but I love the recipes. Very authentic, the author seemed to really enjoy his travels and eating throughout Sicily. Tried a few of the recipes and they were delicious.

I enjoyed this book, but I found the author's personality to be a little distracting. I was hoping for some more details about Sicily itself. I had visions of descriptions of churches and monuments, squares and farms. Instead, Fort seems overly preoccupied with his physical comfort or discomfort, his emotional needs and desires, and his frustrations with people and places he seems to feel are beneath him. He seems to be disturbed by the presence of tourists, remarking condescendingly on those whose ignorance of the local cuisine irks him, forgetting that is still a tourist himself. While that may be normal for a preeminent food critic, it does not make for pleasant reading. Never the less, Fort's descriptions of the meals that he eats and the people he meets are wonderful. He describes his food with the voice of a lover, allowing the flowing description to roll effortlessly. He is particularly enamored of the deep rich flavors of the traditional Sicilian cooking. And each chapter ends with several recipes for the reader to try themselves. Read this book for love of Sicily, for the descriptions of the food, and for a good chuckle over a middle-aged, self-satisfied foodie!

Luscious and charming - even if you never plan to visit Sicily, this book is still worth reading

Includes some good travel suggestions for Sicily. Looking forward to traveling in Sicily, Thanks for the ideas. But I will travel my car!

i like this author, used read him in the illustrated london news--his sicilian experience was not unlike ours on a walk there, it really evokes the earthy life

As editor of a motorscooter enthusiast magazine (Scoot! Magazine) I picked up this book because of Fort's journey by Vespa. Much like "Vroom with a View" by Peter Moore Fort uses the scooter to travel around Sicily for the ultimate "Italian" journey. While there isn't as much scooter chat as I would like, I did find the story of his journey fascinating. The book is filled with in-depth discussion of Sicilian cooking and food history, as well as his experiences with the proud and earnest Sicilians he meets along the way. Fort is lucky to not only be able to experience the tastes of these foods, but he often goes back into the kitchens and observes the making of these age-old chapters of Sicilian history. I was unaware of how many different cultures contributed to Sicilian history and by extension the cuisine. The recipes that end each chapter seem relatively simple to recreate, except that measurements are given in metrics. I have earmarked a few items to try in the future. If you are looking for an exploration of Sicilian cooking, check this book out. If you are a scooter fan, you may also try Peter Moore's books and "Spotted In France" by Gregory Admont (which is similar to "Sweet Honey" except that he tries to eat at as many Michelin star restaurants as possible).

best on the market such a big help Overall I highly recommend this to anyone who is looking for lights for decoration I believe I have purchased products are suitable for their own, the price on is a very good quality product sales is very high. this is a nice product for the money. As soon as I started to use it,

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