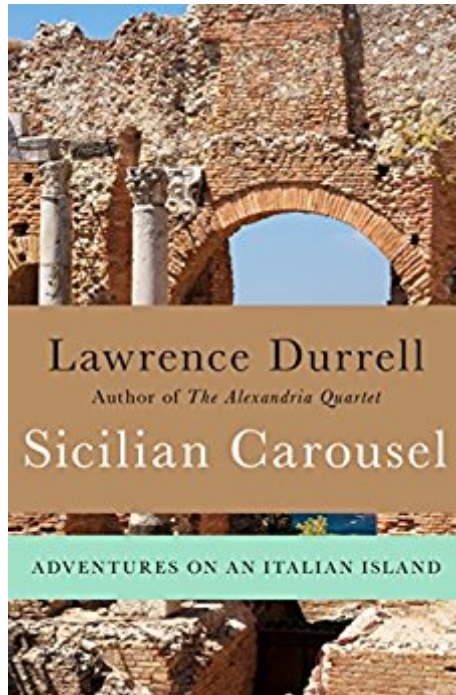




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Sicilian Carousel: Adventures On An Italian Island



Synopsis

In Sicily, a travel writer honors the memory of a departed friend. Despite decades spent writing poetic evocations of the timeless pleasures of life in the Mediterranean, Lawrence Durrell had never set foot on the sea's largest island: mysterious, impenetrable Sicily. For years his friend Martine begged him to visit her on this sun-kissed paradise, and though he always intended to, life inevitably interfered. It took Martine's sudden death to finally bring him to the island's shores. With Martine's letters in his pocket, Durrell signs up for a tour group, hoping to learn the travel habits of those who aren't obsessively devoted to island life. As he treks from sight to sight, dizzy with history and culture, Durrell finds echoes of his past lives in Rhodes, Cyprus, and Corfu.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lawrence Durrell's 1977 recreation of a bus tour of Sicily with a dozen or so quirky international travelers is a delicious mini-vacation. His outdoor evenings with the sea as a backdrop and enveloped by the flower-filled air are worth the trip. He muses on the ancient Greeks and on an old friend who had invited him to visit many times. She died before he made the trip and her letters punctuate many of the tour stops. The book is funny and observant of place and changing

relationships in the cage of a travel group. Great summer reading!

As preparation for our visit to Sicily I read this fascinating adventure and found several of the observations to still be true today. Durrell has a special way with words and with uniquely capturing his fellow travelers. We enjoyed our visits to several of the sites he mentions in his memoir, and enjoyed them all the more because of the set ups he provided in his book.

Perfect

The only shortcoming of this book is that it did not include the illustrations that were present in an earlier edition, otherwise it was fine.

I have not finished it yet but, as I have been to Sicily and have enjoyed other books by Lawrence Durrell I am giving it 5 stars. Just to annoy him, I give some of Gerald's books 5 stars too!

This is a talkative travelogue. I rather enjoy Durrell's writing style. I am going to Sicily and will most likely do a similar route

Excellent , well written, amusing.

I think of this book as 'Durrell Lite'. While Durrell's language is as magisterial and richly evocative as always, reading his account of a package tour of Sicily is a bit like going to hear Pavarotti sing in a small high school auditorium with poor lighting. There just isn't enough scope for his vast powers of observation within the confines of this brief, hurried tour. Instead of colorful locals, for example, Durrell gives us cranky, mostly English tourists, inconveniently falling ill in cramped hotels. If only he had gone to Sicily on his own, to spend a summer or a year, what a different book this might have been!

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