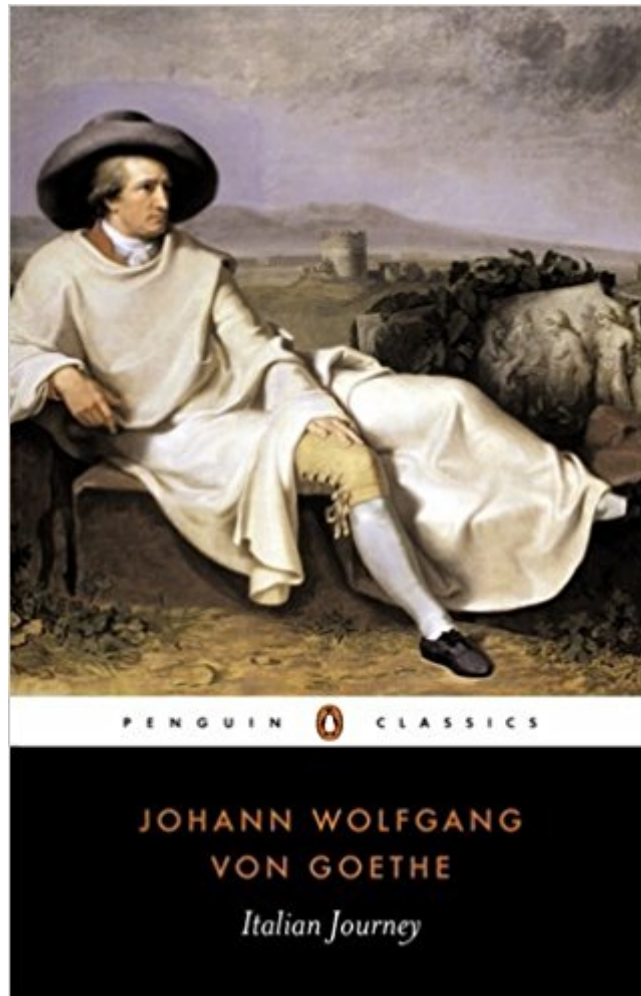




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# Italian Journey: 1786-1788 (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

Goethe's account of his passage through Italy from 1786 to 1788 is a great travel chronicle as well as a candid self-portrait of a genius in the grip of spiritual crisis. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English, German (translation) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe was born in Frankfurt-on-Main in 1749. He studied at Leipzig, where he showed interest in the occult, and at Strassburg, where Herder introduced him to Shakespeare's works and to folk poetry. He produced some essays and lyrical verse, and at twenty-two wrote *Götz von Berlichingen*, a play which brought him national fame and established him in the current Sturm und Drang movement. This was followed by the novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther* in 1774, which was an even greater success. Goethe began work on *Faust*, and *Egmont*, another tragedy before being invited to join the government of Weimar. His

interest in the classical world led him to leave suddenly for Italy in 1786 and the Italian Journey recounts his travels there. Iphigenia in Tauris and Torquato Tasso, classical dramas, were written at this time. Returning to Weimar, Goethe started the second part of Faust, encouraged by Schiller. In 1806 he married Christiane Vulpius. During this late period he finished his series of Wilhelm Master books and wrote many other works, including The Oriental Divan (1819). He also directed the State Theatre and worked on scientific theories in evolutionary botany, anatomy and color. Goethe completed Faust in 1832, just before he died. W.H. Auden was born in 1907 and went to Oxford University, where he became Professor of Poetry from 1956 to 1960. After the publication of his Poems in 1930, he became the acknowledged leader of the 'thirties poets'. His poetic output was prolific, and he also wrote verse plays in collaboration with Christopher Isherwood, with whom he visited China. In 1946 he became a U.S. citizen. He died in 1973. Elizabeth Mayer was born in Mecklenburg in 1884 and emigrated to the U.S. in 1936. In collaboration with Louise Bogan she translated Werther and Elective Affinities

I just came back from a trip to Italy, completely in love with it, the food, the people, churches, museums, famous cities, and I bought this book as a way to prolong my Italian adventure. I am enjoying his descriptions so much, that I am already planning my return trip and including the things and places he describes in this book. It would be wonderful to be able to just travel, with no plans, no reservations, no timetables. The descriptions of the places and the people that the author meets during his journeys are very beautiful and very detailed. It is a very easy to read book and a very entertaining one. Venice, Rome, Naples and Sicily are beautifully described for you. Enjoy the virtual tour.

Goethe went on a somewhat spontaneous (long thought about - but left with little notification to employer or relations and a surprise to himself it seemed) journey to Italy to reignite or find his passion, his muse. He never quite recaptured his creative impulse to the standard of his expectations after writing the book that shot him into international superstardom "The Sorrows of Young Werther" and he wanted to be with young artists in Italy and incognito to reignite his muse (although the forward suggests something quite different may have been responsible for igniting his muse which his journal only hints at). The success of Werther might have left an almost stifling weight on his creativity and his journal also discusses situations where he has to get past the legacy of Werther on his creative process, just through the sheer weight what people want to talk about and identify him with. After Goethe came from his Italian journey he did go on to complete many works,

or revise ones in progress, and further his artistic gifts to mankind; also completing at least one while in Italy. Following along with the help of the internet probably made this book more interesting: getting easy access to pictures and the obscure references made to this or that. Goethe also came across some amusing people as well. Goethe's insights and observations are of course quality but it is also remarkable how normal he was and susceptible to the same sorts of sentiments and feelings, prejudices as most have. I think his notions about dolphins would have changed if he were alive now. It also takes one to a different time and place and takes one, I think, into the mind of a great genius at rest. The 10 pages on the the relationship of Goethe's favorite Saint Filippo Neri and Pope Clement VIII is worth the price of the book.

A little dry at times, but I thoroughly enjoyed it when he was describing his travels through the Alps and southern Alpine regions. It makes me want to return to Malcesine and majestic Lago di Garda. Bellissima!

For some reason, I expected the text to be in the original German, but this is a more than satisfactory English translation

Excellent!

The book arrived on time and in perfect condition. It was exactly what I wanted and ordered. This was an anniversary gift to my wife, so both the timeliness of delivery and the quality of the product were most important. Thank you for celebrating 44 years of marriage with us!

Excellent copy and shipped fast. This is one of the books that I have been waiting to read. clean book.

A true classic.

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