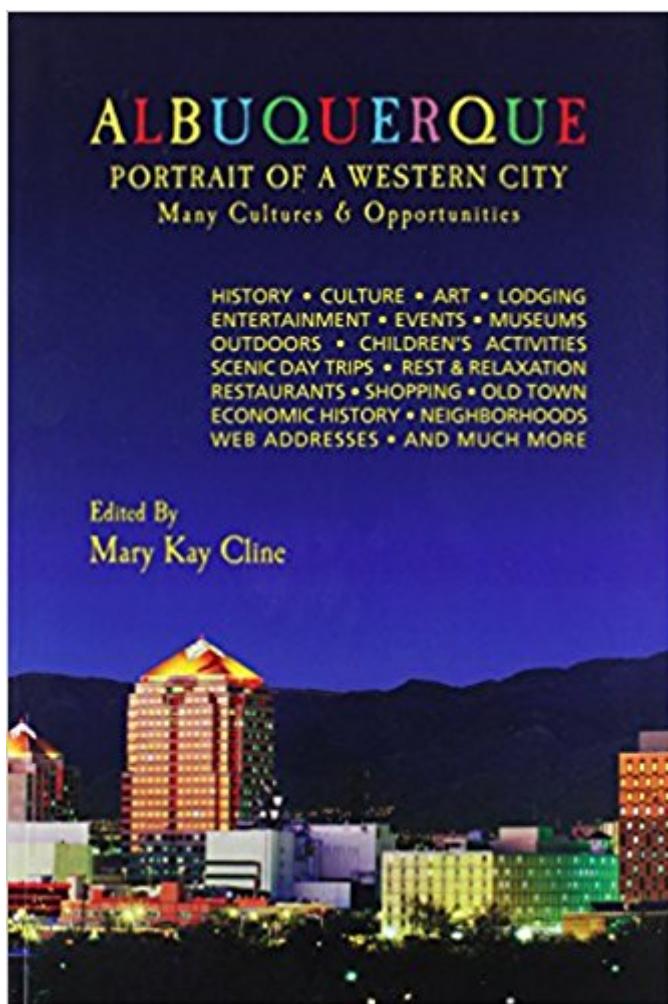


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Albuquerque: Portrait Of A Western City



Synopsis

Compiled as the city celebrates its Tricentennial, Albuquerque: Portrait of a Western City celebrates the city's rich history and culture while helping visitors and residents become aware of what makes the city and its attractions unique. Part I begins with a historical/cultural retrospective, including illuminating contributions from historians and representatives of museums and cultural centers, a fascinating short history of Old Town, historical and economic summaries, and an introduction to the city's various neighborhoods. Photographs and other illustrations show the city as it was. Part II provides a travel guide to the various destinations that make Albuquerque a special place. Visitors will find plenty to do for the whole family, including museums, cultural centers, outdoor recreation sites, nature and wildlife centers, sporting events, arts and crafts fairs, casinos and nearby areas of interest, including Santa Fe, Taos and nearby Indian Pueblos.

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Customer Reviews

Many contributors shared their wealth of knowledge in specific areas. Tom Atencio, co-founder and former coordinator of La Academia de La Nueva Raza, is a lecturer in sociology at the University of New Mexico. Among his current projects is the book *A Tale of Two Towns: From Albuquerque to Old Town*. Jayne Aubele (Senior Educator), Tim Aydelott (Public Information Officer) and Larry Crumpler (Curator of Research) represent the Museum of Natural History and Science. Jerry Geist is the head of the Albuquerque Tricentennial Committee. Cynthia L. Chavez, Museum Director of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, came to the Center after serving as Associate Curator for the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. for six years.

Tazbah McCullah, the Marketing/Public Relations Director of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, has been an award-winning journalist in newspaper and radio. Tom Miles, a former consultant and computer software salesman, is the creator of the Albuquerque Tricentennial Timeline, a 4-by-16-foot representation of 600 years of Albuquerque and New Mexico history on display at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Jim Moore is the former Director of the Albuquerque Museum. Sherry Robinson operates her own writing business and a small news syndicate. Her work has won nine communications awards, and she is the author of two books, Apache Voices and El Malpais, Mt. Taylor and the Zuni Mountains. Tom Rutherford is the co-founder of the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta and a former State Senator. Joe S. Sando, from Jemez Pueblo, is the state's recognized expert on Pueblo history. His books include Pueblo Nations: Eight Centuries of Pueblo Indian History and Pueblo Profiles: Cultural Identity Through Centuries of Change. He was also co-author of Poxy: Leader of the First American Revolution. Carlos Vasquez, the founder of the Oral History Program at the University of New Mexico, is the Director of History and Literary Arts at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. He is the author or editor of several books, including La Vida del Rio Grande (The Life of the Rio Grande). Jim Walther is the Director of the National Atomic Museum.

Albuquerque: NUMBER 1 in Nation for Business and Careers (Forbes) NUMBER 3 in Nation for Smartest City to Live In (Kiplinger's Personal Finance) NUMBER 8 in Nation for Relocating Families (Worldwide ERC and Primacy Relocation) NUMBER 2 in Nation for Favorite Art Destination (American Style Magazine) Number 10 in Nation for Cities with Most Brainpower (Bizjournals) One of Top 6 Travel Destinations in the World (only one in U.S.) (USA Today) Tony Hillerman says "I've lived in Albuquerque for almost 50 years. It has no pretension of sophistication and it's full of friendly people from all over. It has mountains and the Rio Grande river with its bosque. Ditches run everywhere, as they have since the 16th century. You can walk along the river and while away your time." What is it like to visit or live in one of the most exciting places in the country? Albuquerque: Portrait of a Western City uniquely captures what the city is all about and what it has to offer. First, fifteen expert contributors bring its culture and history to life. When you walk the streets of Old Town, famous for its shops and cuisine, you'll know the colorful stories of those who lived in the centuries-old adobe houses you pass. Then Mary Kay Cline, former CEO of the Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau, creates a definitive guidebook to the city for tourists and residents alike. Compiled as Albuquerque celebrates its Tricentennial, this book--really two books in one--provides ample evidence

for why the city is winning raves as the place to be!

I don't live in Albuquerque but I try to visit New Mexico at least once a year and ABQ is always my "base of operations." My perspective is as an "objective" but very sympathetic outsider. "Albuquerque:Portrait of a Western City" tries to be part history, part cultural analysis and part visitor guide, compiled at the time of the city's Tricentennial. I think it largely succeeds in each of these roles, although to different degrees.Certainly, if you are a "serious" visitor to the city who is interested in the history of the city and some understanding of the origins of the features, institutions and cultures that may attract you to ABQ, this is going to do a much better job than any travel guide I've seen simply because it spends much more space and attention on the city's history, culture and economy than any travel guide. The real "travel guide" portions of the book are not necessarily better than an up-to-date travel guide and become more outdated with each passing year. The largest hotels and restaurants are mentioned while smaller restaurants and hotels, which may be as good or better, are ignored. The book also has little information on internet resources and has only one small map. But it's well worthwhile for the information it provides that you won't find in a travel guide.The book was produced to promote the city on the occasion of its Tricentennial but it's not a simple promotional effort, either. It does deal with many subjects with historical objectivity, but it is not a critical review of development policies. Visiting Albuquerque today you're struck by a combination of vitality, physical beauty, cultural diversity and what appears to be unplanned growth reminiscent of my home, Long Island. Pairing this book with "Albuquerque: A City at the End of the World," will expand your perspective on the issue of development, although you may not always agree with that author's (V.B. Price) point of view. These two books and a good up-to-date travel guide will serve the "serious" visitor or fan well.

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