

Embrace the Dolce Vita: How Two Fifty-Somethings Retired and Found Affordable Living in the Heart of Italy

In a world where financial burdens and societal norms often dictate our life choices, two individuals dared to break free from convention and embark on an extraordinary adventure. As they approached their golden years, they realized that their dreams of a comfortable retirement did not have to be confined within the boundaries of their home country. With a thirst for exploration, a desire for a simpler life, and a willingness to embrace the unknown, they set their sights on the picturesque landscapes and rich culture of Italy.

For years, the allure of Italy had captivated their hearts. They had marveled at its breathtaking scenery, its vibrant history, and its renowned cuisine. As they reached the cusp of retirement, they resolved to make their dream a reality, believing that this enchanting country offered the perfect blend of affordability, beauty, and adventure.

With meticulous planning and unwavering determination, they sold their home and most of their belongings, bidding farewell to the familiar and setting off on a path less traveled. Their journey took them through winding roads and sun-drenched countryside, past ancient olive groves and medieval hilltop towns. Every vista they encountered seemed like a page torn from a storybook, beckoning them to explore its hidden treasures.

Two Years in Italy: How two fifty-somethings retired, and went to live in Italy to live cheap and make art



by Mark Walters

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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After extensive research and countless hours spent scouring the internet, they stumbled upon a hidden gem in the heart of Umbria, a region known for its rolling hills, verdant vineyards, and charming medieval villages. Intrigued by the promise of affordable living and a slower pace of life, they decided to make the picturesque town of Gubbio their new home.

Gubbio, nestled amidst the Apennine Mountains, is an enchanting town that has stood the test of time. Its cobblestone streets, medieval architecture, and stunning views of the surrounding countryside captivated their hearts. To their astonishment, they discovered that living in this sought-after location was not beyond their reach.

Their search for a suitable home led them to a charming medieval castle, perched atop a hill overlooking the town and the surrounding countryside. With its centuries-old stone walls, vaulted ceilings, and breathtaking panoramic views, it seemed like something out of a fairy tale. To their surprise, the rent for this extraordinary abode was significantly lower than what they had anticipated.

Overjoyed and filled with a sense of disbelief, they signed a lease for the castle, knowing that they had found their dream home. The walls of the castle whispered tales of bygone eras, and from its windows, they could witness the changing seasons and the rhythms of life in Umbria.

As they settled into their new life in Gubbio, they wholeheartedly embraced the Italian lifestyle. They spent leisurely mornings browsing the local markets, marveling at the vibrant colors and abundance of fresh produce. They discovered a passion for "slow food," savoring every bite of the local specialties prepared with love and tradition.

The people of Gubbio welcomed them with open arms, eager to share their culture and traditions. They joined local clubs, attended festivals, and made friends who became like family. They learned the importance of "la passeggiata," the evening stroll that brings the community together for lively conversations and laughter.

With Gubbio as their home base, they embarked on adventures to explore the surrounding region. They ventured into the nearby towns of Assisi, Perugia, and Orvieto, each with its unique charm and historical significance. They hiked through lush forests, marveled at cascading waterfalls, and stumbled upon enchanting villages where time seemed to stand still.

Umbria, they discovered, was a treasure trove of hidden gems, all waiting to be uncovered. They visited ancient Etruscan ruins, explored medieval castles, and tasted the region's renowned wines in local vineyards. Every excursion offered a new opportunity for discovery and a deeper appreciation for the beauty and diversity of Italy.

As the years passed, their retirement took on a new meaning. They dedicated themselves to giving back to the community, volunteering their time at local charities and sharing their love of Italy with other travelers. They became active members of the local expat community, organizing events and fostering connections among fellow foreigners.

Through their experiences, they realized that retirement was not simply about stepping away from work but about embracing a new chapter of life filled with purpose and fulfillment. They had found a new home, a new community, and a new sense of belonging in the heart of Italy.

The story of these two fifty-somethings who retired to live cheaply in Italy is a testament to the transformative power of embracing the unknown and breaking free from societal expectations. By stepping outside their comfort zone and venturing into a new country, they discovered a world of affordability, beauty, and adventure.

Their journey serves as an inspiration to all those who dream of retiring in a way that is both fulfilling and financially feasible. It demonstrates that with a little planning, determination, and a willingness to embrace the unexpected, the golden years can be a time of unparalleled growth, discovery, and joy.



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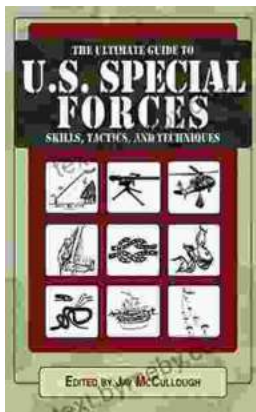
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