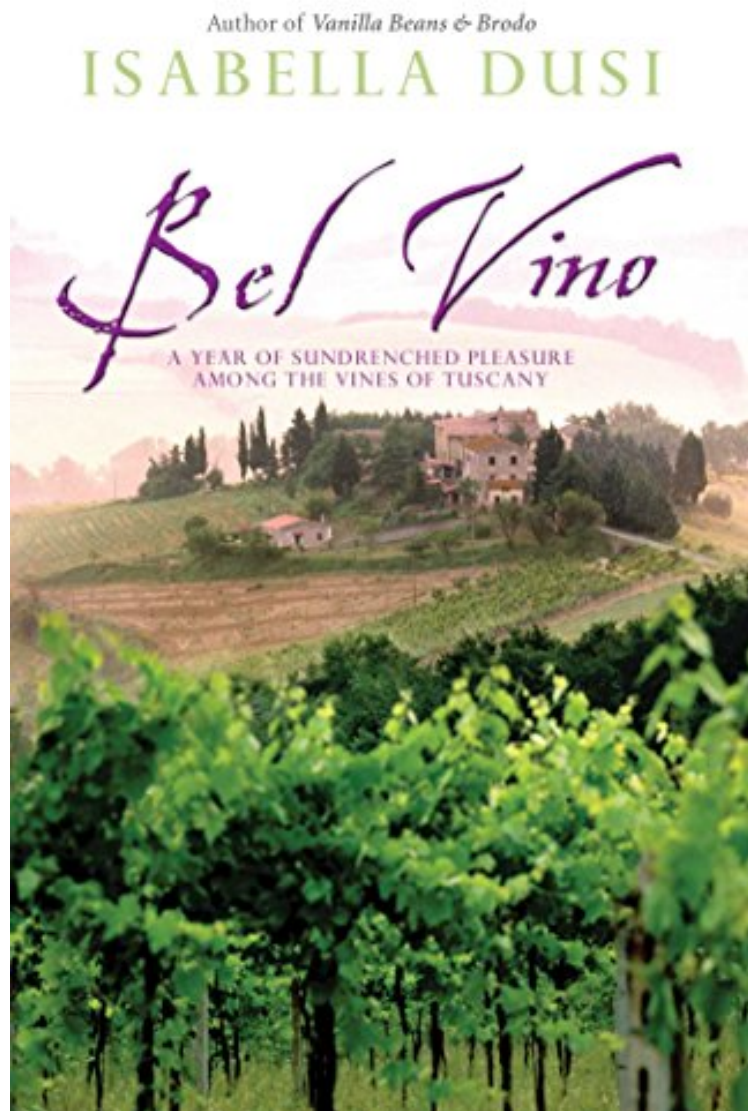


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## Bel Vino: A Year of Sundrenched Pleasure Among the Vines of Tuscany

*Isabella Dusi*

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**Isabella Dusi : Bel Vino: A Year of Sundrenched Pleasure Among the Vines of Tuscany** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bel Vino: A Year of Sundrenched Pleasure Among the Vines of Tuscany:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great second book and maybe better than her first By Duane

WrightGreat second book and maybe better than her first. We have been to Montalcino many times and she captures the spirit of the community very well2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Bel Vino is BellissimoBy EGFHaving lived in Southern Italy for 4 years in my teenage years, I find myself living vicariously through Isabella in her books! As the mystery of the Brunello history unfolds, it becomes even more intriguing. So like an amazing tapestry as she discovers how the "founding" families intertwine! Loved every journey, every festa, and even just the day-to-day living in the incredible hilltop village of Montalcino!15 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Not about wineBy ZeconI was drawn to this book because its title indicated a link to wine and a promise that it would "unravel the secrets of Montalcino's celebrated wine." Of the 500 pages in the book, I found very little was dedicated to wine. I am an Italophile so I was not terribly disappointed with that fact. However, I found Dusi's book to be somewhat incomprehensible, filled to the point of over-distraction. At times, it is mind-numbing. For example, she provides far too many details about the local soccer team and her husband's particular obsession with it. The story line is not always consistent. It is not a terrible book, particularly if you love Italy. But, you will find yourself tempted to skip pages to speed up the story.If you are interested in Italy and do not mind reading a story that is not always consistent and that is filled with distracting details, you will find some pleasure with the glimpses Dusi provides into the life of the people of Montalcino.

Isobel and Lou moved to Montalcino and became Isabella and Luigi ten years ago and they have now been embraced by the locals and immersed in their antiquated customs and age-old feuds. In BEL VINO Isabella takes the reader on a winding journey to discover the true aristocratic origins of the world-renowned wine Brunello di Montalcino on whose vintage the fortunes of many of the Montalcinesi depend. Taking us through the seasons of the wine harvest, Dusi weaves a path that brings in the local white-hooded monks who have lived in the Abbey of Sant' Antimo since at least 814; the last remaining local shoemaker; the harvesting of mushrooms, olives and truffles; an archery contest with a local village at which passions run high; and the fight to save a 1000-year-old church with no foundations. As an insider, Dusi is able to portray Tuscan life with all its idyllic charms whilst also giving an intriguing insight into the daily workings of the ancient village of Montalcino.