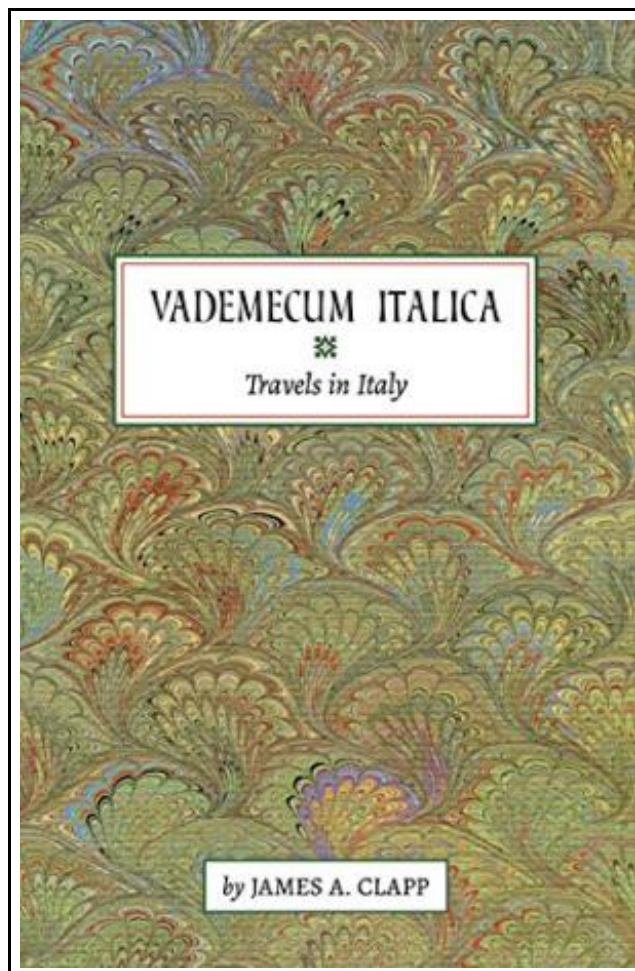


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### ***Reviews***

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BookBaby, United States, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 213 x 137 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Having traveled to some seventy countries over thirty years I am sometimes asked "what is your favorite country?" It could be qualified: for food? for art? for weather? for natural beauty? The answers might be different. But when the question is put comprehensively, I hesitate?because I know that answer rather easily, and it would seem I am showing ethnic favoritism because I am an Italian-American. Italy! Italy is my favorite country because it might not always have the very best, but has the following characteristics: a great history (if not always a noble one); great art (although not the best cared for or protected); a great cuisine (hey, I grew up eating the stuff); great language (great for opera and animated conversation, although Portuguese sounds better for modern music); great weather (nothing beats semi-arid Mediterranean weather); and, particular to my passions, Italy has fascinating cities. Oh, and beautiful women (a genetic benefit of those Roman legions bringing home beautiful slaves from their conquests.) Other countries compete with Italy on these individual criteria. One will always get an argument on food and women?and men as well (although I did not say that Italy has the best looking men). But Italy permutes and demonstrates these criteria best of all places I have visited. Where else can one sit in a piazza in clement, sunny weather, sipping a cappuccino (in the country that invented it), watching gesticulated conversation among the locals, or feasting on great public art ranging from Roman imperial times to the Renaissance, and leisurely reading something from Ruskin, Mary McCarthy, or John Addington Symonds Biography of Benevenuto Cellini. For me, no better version of heaven could be portrayed inside the dome of...



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