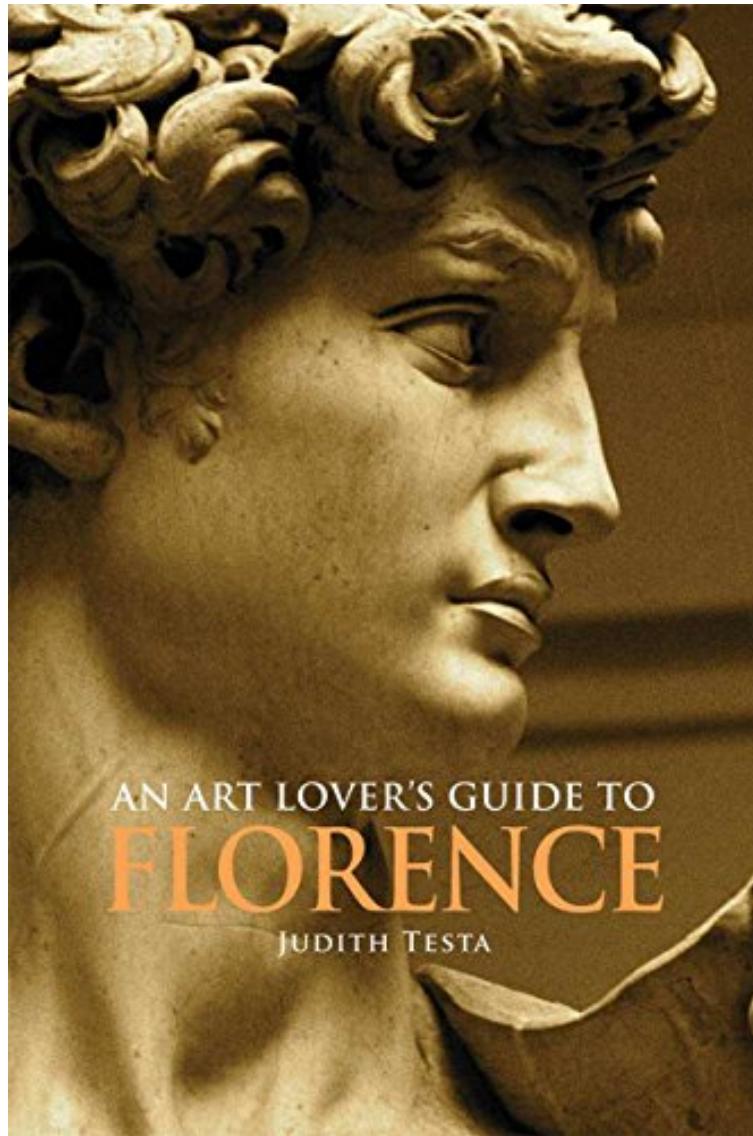


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Judith Testa : An Art Lover's Guide to Florence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An Art Lover's Guide to Florence:

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. This is a Story Lover's Guide to FlorenceBy J J.I loved that fact that Judith Testa doesn't even pretend to try to cover all the art in Florence, because as she says in the first chapter it isn't possible. What she does do is give you the social, political, religious, and in some cases sexual background by means of individual stories to turn lifeless stone and canvas into time capsules of the human condition. It is a beautiful and entertaining way to connect to the art and artists in way that is deeper than focusing on art techniques or flowery

words describing what you are already seeing. In fact the author skips over a few semi-famous pieces because there isn't a good story behind them (don't worry there will be plenty of signs point the way and you won't need a book to find them). I felt much closer to the artists, architects, and engineers of Florence after reading this book and the art became more interactive and personal because of it. It is also broken down into museum so you can focus on your next days activity at your hotel the night before. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Black and white illustrations are few and far between. By jsowell Very well written as a history of Florence, but the few illustrations are in black and white. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Its like gossiping with a backyard neighbor about the goings on ... By Customer This book provides a political/religious/sexual viewpoint on many works of art in Florence! It is interesting reading and when we get to Italy in a few months, roaming the museums and galleries will be so much more meaningful to me because of this book. Its like gossiping with a backyard neighbor about the goings on in Florence back during the 1400-1500s. Terrific!

No city but Florence contains such an intense concentration of art produced in such a short span of time. The sheer number and proximity of works of painting, sculpture, and architecture in Florence can be so overwhelming that Florentine hospitals treat hundreds of visitors each year for symptoms brought on by trying to see them all, an illness famously identified with the French author Stendhal. While most guidebooks offer only brief descriptions of a large number of works, with little discussion of the historical background, Judith Testa gives a fresh perspective on the rich and brilliant art of the Florentine Renaissance in *An Art Lover's Guide to Florence*. Concentrating on a number of the greatest works, by such masters as Botticelli and Michelangelo, Testa explains each piece in terms of what it meant to the people who produced it and for whom they made it, deftly treating the complex interplay of politics, sex, and religion that were involved in the creation of those works.