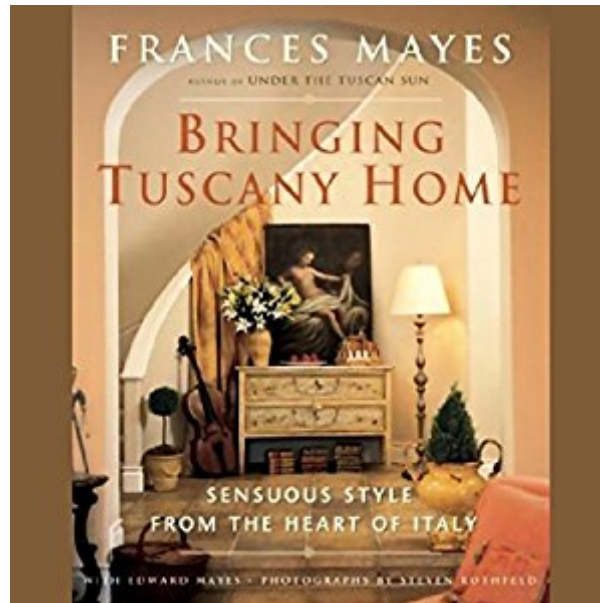


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# Bringing Tuscany Home: Sensuous Style From The Heart Of Italy



## Synopsis

I always imagine each of the signoras who lived in this houseâwhere she shelled peas, rocked the grandchild, placed a vase of the pink roses. Now I would like to take one of these women back to my house in California to show her how Bramasole traveled to America and took root, how the doors there are open to the breeze from San Pablo bay and to the distant view of Mount Tamalpais, how the table has expanded and the garden has burgeonedâ

[The âbard of Tuscanyâ • (New York Times) now offers a lavishly illustrated book for everyone who dreams of integrating the Tuscan lifestyleâfrom home decoration and cooking, to eating and drinking, to gardening, socializing, and celebratingâinto their own lives. When Frances Mayes fell in love with Tuscany and Bramasole, millions of readers basked in the experience through her three bestselling memoirs. Now Frances and her husband, In Tuscany coauthor Edward, share the essence of Tuscan life as they have lived it, with specific ideas and inspiration for readers stateside to bring the beauty and spirit of Tuscany into their own home decor, meals, gardens, entertaining and, most important, outlook on life. In her inimitable warm and evocative tone, Frances helps readers develop an eye for authentic Tuscan style, with advice on how to:

- â Choose a Tuscan color palette for the home, from earthy apricot tones to invigorating shades of antique blue.
- â Personalize a room with fanciful door frames, unique painted furniture, and fresco murals.
- â Cultivate a Tuscan garden, adding fountains, vine-covered pergolas, and terra-cotta urns among the herbs and flowers
- â Select the best Italian vino. (Frances describes lunches at regional vineyards and imparts tips for pairing food and wine.)
- â Create an atmosphere of irresistible, anytime hospitalityâa casa aperta (open home).
- â Make primo finds at local antiques markets. (And to help truly bring Tuscany home, shipping advice and market days for several Tuscan towns are included.)
- â Set an imaginative Tuscan table using majolica and vintage linens.
- â Enjoy the abundant flavors and easy simplicity of the Tuscan kitchen, with details on everything from olive oil and vino santo to pici and gnocchi, plus special homegrown menus and recipes.
- â Make the most of a trip to Tuscany, visiting Francesâs favorite hill towns, restaurants, small museums, and other soothing places. With more than 100 photos by acclaimed photographer Steven Rothfeld (including several of the Mayesâs California home and its Tuscan accents), twenty-five all-new recipes, and lists of resources for travelers and shoppers, Bringing Tuscany Home is a treasure trove of practical advice and memorable images.

--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'Bringing Tuscany Home' by Frances Mayes has several different faces, but its title tells its primary objective, which is importing to one's American home the furniture, style, feel, and 'Zeitgeist' of Tuscany, where the authors Mayes have a 'summer' home. For readers who are familiar with my concentration on culinary works, I was lead to buy this book for review by 's bringing it up in a list of culinary titles, so I bought it largely on the strength of Ms. Mayes' reputation as the author of 'Under the Tuscan Sun'. While the book does contain a few recipes, the most interesting one being an Italian plum tart borrowed from Tuscan summer neighbor Nancy Silverton of La Brea Bakery fame, it is not really a culinary title. Edward Mayes appears to be the cook of the family and most recipes are attributed to him, including a soffrito, a tomato sauce, oven roasted tomatoes, artichoke pesto, olive salsa, Tuscan beans, grilled radicchio, farro salad, fried zucchini flowers, shrimp in pasta shells, pici with fresh fava beans, potato gnocchi and sauce, pasta with pancetta, black cabbage soup, vegetable soup, eggplant parmesan, chicken with olives, rolled veal scallops, rolled sole, white peaches with almonds, and tulip shells with berries. Aside from the very last recipe, everything is pretty standard stuff. The basis of the Mayes' expertise in Tuscan style is their ownership and renovation of a middle-sized villa just outside the village of Cortona in Tuscany for the last fourteen (14) years and their furnishing a Marin County, California home after the Tuscan style. This, more than anything else, is the meaning of the title. If this book were written by a journeyman travel writer and if it were priced above its very modest \$29.

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