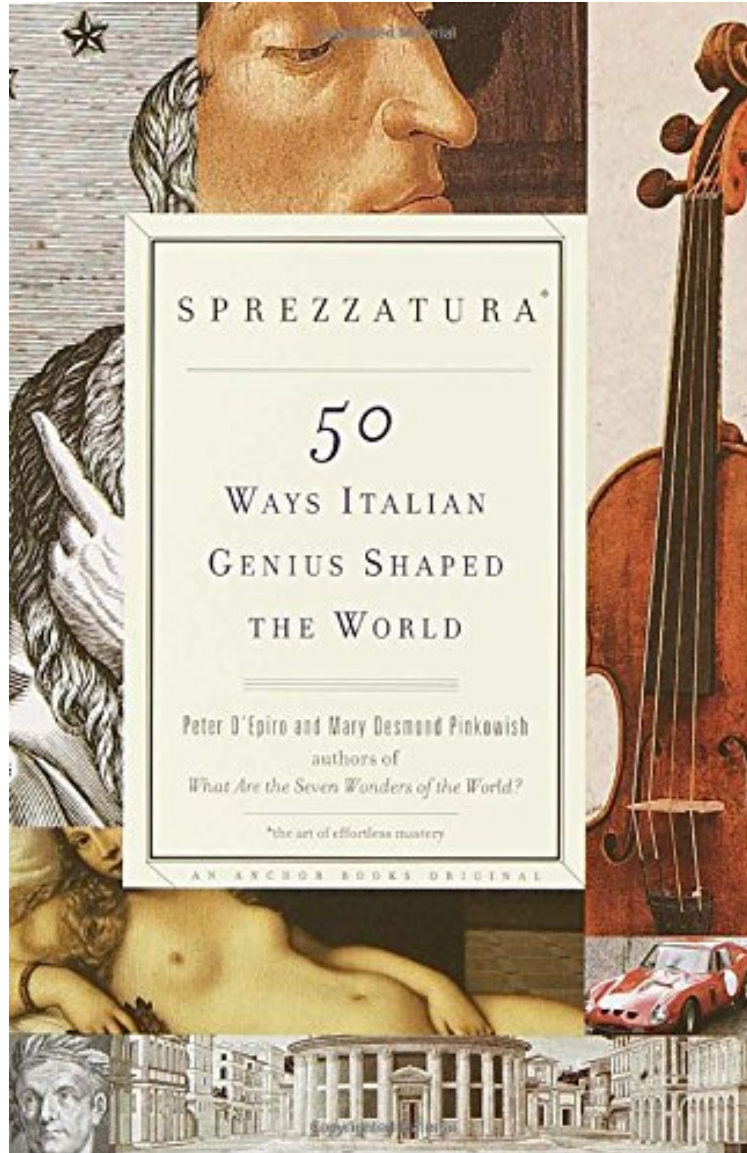


(Download free pdf) Sprezzatura: 50 Ways Italian Genius Shaped the World

Sprezzatura: 50 Ways Italian Genius Shaped the World

Peter D'Epiro, Mary Desmond Pinkowish

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#439029 in Books Peter D Epiro 2001-10-02 2001-10-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.99 x .87 x 5.18l, .69 #File Name: 038572019X416 pagesSprezzatura 50 Ways Italian Genius Shaped the World | File size: 42.Mb

Peter D'Epiro, Mary Desmond Pinkowish : Sprezzatura: 50 Ways Italian Genius Shaped the World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sprezzatura: 50 Ways Italian Genius Shaped the World:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Wonderful WorkBy BillIf you know me, you know that I am very

proud of my Italian heritage. I have often said if you take the 15th century contributions made by Florence to the western world they would rival, if not exceed, the contribution of some nations for all time. If one were to look at the entire history of Italy, you could see that the contributions are beyond any other nation. As you can see, I have a great love for the land of my ancestors. I am passionately interested in the history of Italy as well as the culture. I have read multiple Italian histories. What I enjoyed about this book is that it provided a good survey of both. The book is a good starting point for anyone interested in history. Each of the 50 chapters is a concise discussion of important contribution Italy has made to the world. It gives the reader a taste of interesting topics that they can then go on to research in more detail. If there is any criticism that I could make of the book is that it is a summation. So, when the author describes the Roman contribution to architecture, he discusses architecture in general. This, however, is a minor criticism of the book. If one were to discuss all the contributions Italians have made to architecture, it would fill a book in and of itself. The same is true for each of the chapters. There are just too many contributions made by Italy to be discussed in detail by any one book.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Where would we be without Italian genius across the centuries? By Nancy L. D'Antuono Sprezzatura offers the American reader unfamiliar with the accomplishments in Italian history, literature, nuclear science, medicine, and fashion that have contributed to our present reality. The book offers a richer outlook on the Italian cultural heritage, one that goes way beyond what is offered as Italian culture by programs like the Sopranos and films that focus almost exclusively on Italian-American gangsters.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Italophile's delight By S. Rosenfeld One of the charms of this unique book is the ability to meander over the centuries, letting your mood choose the entry, and yet feeling a sense of context, because of the authors' tight chronological organization. The writing is lively, and I appreciated the avoidance of idolatry. Appreciation yes, but with a healthy sense of distance.

A witty, erudite celebration of fifty great Italian cultural achievements that have significantly influenced Western civilization from the authors of *What Are the Seven Wonders of the World?* The word "sprezzatura," or the art of effortless mastery, was coined in 1528 by Baldassare Castiglione in *The Book of the Courtier*. No one has demonstrated effortless mastery throughout history quite like the Italians. From the Roman calendar and the creator of the modern orchestra (Claudio Monteverdi) to the beginnings of ballet and the creator of modern political science (Niccol Machiavelli), *Sprezzatura* highlights fifty great Italian cultural achievements in a series of fifty information-packed essays in chronological order.

.com "Everyone knows the difficulty of things that are exquisite and well done," the Renaissance philosopher Baldassare Castiglione once remarked. "So to have facility in such things gives rise to the greatest wonder." Italians call that artful facility sprezzatura, a term, Peter d'Epiro and Mary Desmond Pinkowish maintain, that well describes the nation's genius. They have reason to celebrate: Italy, after all, has exerted an influence in world affairs and culture all out of proportion to its size and population, and has done so for hundreds of years. Among the authors' subjects are the navigators Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci, and Giovanni Verrazano, whose transoceanic voyages changed the course of world history; Andrea Palladio, the architect whose theories have guided designers and builders to the present day; Claudio Monteverdi, whom the authors call "the father of modern music," who gave the world not only fine operas but also the modern orchestra; Enzo Ferrari, the great automaker; Roberto Rossellini, the often overlooked pioneer of New Wave cinema; and the anonymous Roman engineers who built aqueducts, sewers, and roads that still stand today. Though short on interpretation (d'Epiro and Pinkowish offer little insight into why Italy should have produced such an abundance of inventive, often daring men--and women, though only a few figure in their pages), this anecdotal collection of biographical sketches is a pleasing entertainment for admirers of all things Italian.

--Gregory McNamee From *Publishers Weekly* In the early 16th century, Count Baldassare Castiglione penned his famous *Book of the Courtier*, synthesizing the ideals of the medieval courtly gentleman with the new "Renaissance man." Above all, the courtier should exhibit the qualities of grace and sprezzatura, which D'Epiro and Pinkowish accurately describe as "an assumed air of doing difficult things with an effortless mastery and an air of nonchalance." In 50 bite-sized chapters that are as delicious as they are short, D'Epiro and Pinkowish (*What Are the Seven Wonders of the World?*) take readers through a whirlwind tour of 25 centuries of culture and history on the Italian peninsula. From the calendar and Roman law to the Montessori method and Enrico Fermi, readers can delight in the defeats and accomplishments of a most varied group of men and women. Most books extolling the Italians conveniently delete the dark side of Italian history; this one honestly leaves in many of the more brutal details. The writing is engaging, and the authors' lively and descriptive style almost compensates for a lack of illustrations. One of the book's great merits is that it will surely stimulate readers to return to their Ovid, Livy, Dante and Boccaccio; in addition, one can gain greater appreciation for such masterpieces as Rossellini's *Rome, Open City* and Giuseppe Di Lampedusa's *The Leopard*. Although the authors only hint at it, sprezzatura is anything but effortless: mastery of any skill requires more perspiration than inspiration. Or, as D'Epiro and Pinkowish point out, the "social mask," or the "disjunction between appearance and reality," is "the very patina of civilization." Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* D'Epiro and Pinkowish demonstrate how Italians have influenced the way the modern world thinks, acts,

dresses, and communicates. In *Sprezzatura* (an Italian word meaning the appearance of effortless ability), assisted by a few other contributors, they offer some 50 essays on persons and concepts in fields of endeavor that include law, architecture, music, art, fashion, electricity, radio technology, and literature. Many expected actors appear on this stage: Julius Caesar, Dante, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Marconi, Fermi, Ferrari, and Armani. Other fascinating pieces limn people and events less known to nonspecialist audiences--Garibaldi and the risorgimento; the poet D'Annunzio, who took over a small city in 1919 and ruled as its prince for 16 months; Aretino, the critically acclaimed early pornographer; and Catherine de' Medici, one of the first gourmets, who introduced fine cuisine to sixteenth-century France. A learned and entertaining survey of world culture, Italian style. Michael Spinella Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved