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BEHIND THE **SCENES**

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Front: Tuscany landscape, Borut Trdina/Getty Back: Leaning Tower of Pisa, Maurizio

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Destination Editor Anna Tyler

Product Editor Vicky Smith

THIS BOOK

Senior Cartographers Anthony Phelan, Valentina Kremenchutskaya

Book Designers Michael Buick, Katherine Marsh

Assisting Editors Jodie Martire, Kate Mathews

Assisting Book Designer Kerrianne Jenkins

Cover Researcher Naomi Parker

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OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime - across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end - broke but inspired - they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, Across Asia on the Cheap. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

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OUR WRITERS



DUNCAN GARWOOD

A Brit travel writer based in the Castelli Romani hills just outside Rome, Duncan has clocked up endless kilometres walking around the Italian capital and exploring

the far-flung reaches of the surrounding Lazio region. He's co-author of the Rome city guide and has worked on the past six editions of the Italy guide as well as guides to Piedmont, Sicily, Sardinia, and Naples and the Amalfi Coast. He has also written on Italy for newspapers and magazines.



PAULA HARDY

From Lido beaches to annual Biennales and spritz-fuelled aperitivo bars, Paula has contributed to Lonely Planet Italian guides for over 15 years, including previous editions of Venice

& the Veneto, Pocket Milan, The Italian Lakes, Sicily, Sardinia and Puglia & Basilicata. When she's not scooting around the bel paese, she writes for a variety of travel publications and websites. Currently she divides her time between London, Italy and Morocco, and tweets her finds @paula6hardy.



ROBERT LANDON

Ten minutes into his maiden voyage to Italy, Robert was pickpocketed in a Florence church, yet he has been returning obsessively ever since, including stints liv-

ing in Rome and Florence. He has authored Lonely Planet guides to Florence, Venice and Brazil, and has also written about travel, art and architecture for the Los Angeles Times, Dwell, Metropolis and many other publications.



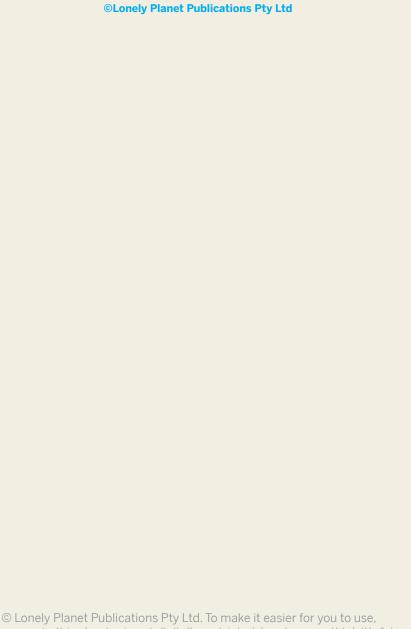
NICOLA WILLIAMS

British writer Nicola Williams lives on the southern shore of Lake Geneva. Thankfully for her Italianate soul, it is an easy hop through the Mont Blanc

Tunnel to Italy where she has spent years eating her way around and revelling in its extraordinary art, architecture, cuisine and landscape. Hunting Tuscan white truffles in October is an annual family ritual. Nicola has worked on numerous titles for Lonely Planet, including those covering Italy, Milan, Turin & Genoa, and Piedmont. She shares her travels on Twitter @Tripalong.

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