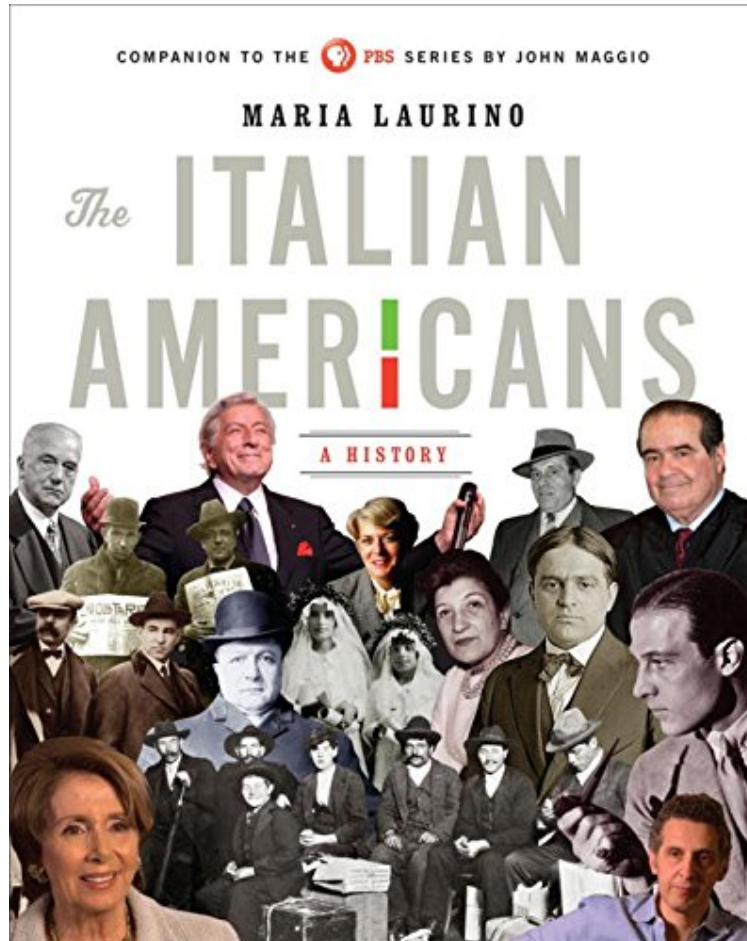


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The Italian Americans: A History

Maria Laurino

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Maria Laurino : The Italian Americans: A History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Italian Americans: A History:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Must Have Book If You Have A Passion For a Italian-American HistoryBy NinetteKnowing Maria Laurino's writing style from reading her previous books, I knew the book was going to be part of my collection of books to be read over and over, and shared with friends who also have a passion for Italian American history. Growing up as a child and grandchild of Immigrants from Southern Italy, understanding the history of the Italian Americans is important. As one of the largest ethnic groups to arrive in the USA, sacrificing and contributing so much to this country at so many levels(music, art, politics, culinary, agriculture) one has to question why, until contemporary writers came about, pretty much all went unnoticed. Over the years several excellent books have been written, and documentaries done. Laurino's research, with her attention to detail, has provided another excellent book. I loved the illustrations, the personal interviews and the layout of her latest book. Complimenti

Maria! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Italian Americans: A History By Zackattack123 I really enjoyed this book! The Italian Americans: A History explains and covers the Italian immigration to America, and explains how Italian American history, and culture and traditions helped shape America into what is it today and vice versa what life was like for Italians in Italy around the time of immigration to the United States and what Italians had to face once they arrived in United States. If you like Italian history like I do, then I think you will really enjoy this book! It should be noted, that this book is a companion to the DVD: Italian Americans. If you are interested in this book, I recommend buying the book and DVD together. Also, though there is no right or wrong way to go through the Italian American series, I would recommend reading the chapters and sections in the book first and then watching the corresponding sections on the DVD. All in all, a great series! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nonna Approved By T Duck I was at a brick and mortar book store with my grandmother who will tell you, if you've known her more than 20 minutes, how Italian we are. She subtly hinted that this book interested her ("You know, it would be really great to have that book *sigh* maybe someday I'll come back and buy it"), but at the sticker price of \$35 it seemed a little steep. Unbeknownst to her, I snuck onto before we even left the store and had it sent to her house for much less. A few days later I got a very excited call from her, which included the following direct quotes: "You didn't have to do that for me" (yeah right) and "The girls all want to borrow it but I don't trust them enough that it won't get ruined." Now, the book sits proudly on her coffee table so she can admire it while she watches Days. I should mention that I have read a lot of it and it does have a lot of information about some very famous and otherwise influential Italian-Americans spanning several different eras, not all of whom were part of "our thing". If you want to make your nonna happy: 1) visit, 2) call, 3) send her this book.

This gorgeous companion book to the PBS series illuminates an important, overlooked part of American history. In this richly researched, beautifully designed and illustrated volume, Maria Laurino strips away stereotypes and nostalgia to tell the complicated, centuries-long story of the true Italian-American experience. Looking beyond the familiar Little Italys and stereotypes fostered by The Godfather and The Sopranos, Laurino reveals surprising, fascinating lives: Italian-Americans working on sugar-cane plantations in Louisiana to those who were lynched in New Orleans; the banker who helped rebuild San Francisco after the great earthquake; families interned as enemy aliens in World War II. From anarchist radicals to Rosie the Riveter to Nancy Pelosi, Andrew Cuomo, and Bill de Blasio; from traditional artisans to rebel songsters like Frank Sinatra, Dion, Madonna, and Lady Gaga, this book is both exploration and celebration of the rich legacy of Italian-American life. Readers can discover the history chronologically, chapter by chapter, or serendipitously by exploring the trove of supplemental materials. These include interviews, newspaper clippings, period documents, and photographs that bring the history to life. 150 color illustrations

A first-rate, cliché-killing, and insightful exploration of the Italian-American journey. I couldn't put it down. Essential. - John Turturro Rich and satisfying, loaded with fascinating interviews, glorious photographs and fresh insights, this compilation is a keeper. With her trademark literary elegance and journalistic integrity, Maria Laurino pulls disparate threads together creating one lush tapestry that shows us who we are. - Adriana Trigiani The Italian Americans is clear, fresh and vivid. It answers a thousand questions about where we came from, how and why our ancestors got here, and why we think and act as we do. - Russell Shorto The Italian Americans is a revelation a rich and truthful history, full of little-known information, insight, and narrative color, giving full dimension to people far too often reduced to stereotype. - Gay Talese About the Author Maria Laurino is the author of Were You Always an Italian?, a national bestseller, and Old World Daughter, New World Mother. She lives in New York City with her husband and son.