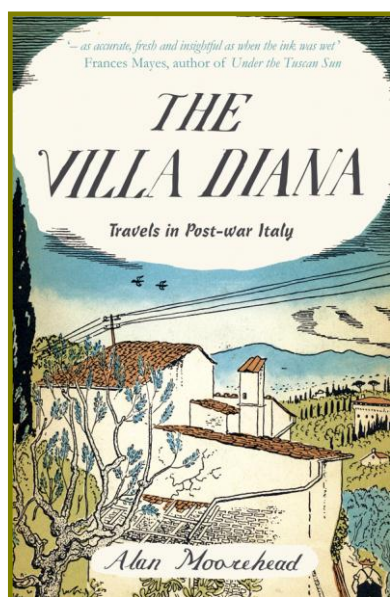


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Summersdale are delighted to re-issue this classic collection of essays that are as fresh and vibrant today as they were when they first appeared in 1951



# THE VILLA DIANA

## *Travels in Post-war Italy*

by

*Alan Moorehead*

CATEGORY: Travel Writing/Non-fiction:

ISBN: 978 1 84024 667 4 Paperback 222 pages £7.99 June 2008

Describing life in Italy sixty-years-ago, here is a book that will charm, inform and entertain all those who love Italy and the Italian way of life – and there is much in the book to fascinate anybody interested in modern European history.

Above Florence and the valley of the Arno in Tuscany stood the Villa Diana among olive groves and cypresses. The home of Poliziano in the fifteenth century, it had been occupied by the troops of seven armies during World War Two but escaped damage (if one overlooked the looting of the grand piano).

And it was The Villa Diana that **Alan Moorehead**, one of the greatest war correspondents of WWII, chose to make his home in 1948 to allow him to travel through Italy and to write this celebrated book.

Surrounded by physical beauty and the rhythms of the seasons, he describes with wit the drama of life among the servants, the reviving fortunes of Portofino, the horse race of Siena, the gondoliers' union in Venice, and a collision between a family of pigs and a cart full of crucifixes.

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**NB:** This book will also appeal to the many fans of *The Little Word of Don Camillo* books. In *The Villa Diana*, Moorehead describes the day-to-day life and the political climate of the post-war Italy that was the setting for Giovanni Guareschi's enduring tales about a fictional village priest and his arch rival, the communist mayor.

**Alan Moorehead (1910 – 1983)** was born in Melbourne and came to England at the age of 25, making a worldwide reputation as a journalist and war correspondent. After the war, he wrote *Gallipoli*, which was awarded the first Duff Cooper Memorial Prize by Winston Churchill and which is still the definitive work on the campaign. He also wrote the best-selling books, *The White Nile*, *The Blue Nile* and *African Trilogy*.

*The Villa Diana* is published by Summersdale and available through all good bookshops and internet booksellers or by telephoning Summersdale. **To request a review copy**, please contact Elly Donovan on: 01243 771107 or email [elly@summersdale.com](mailto:elly@summersdale.com)



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