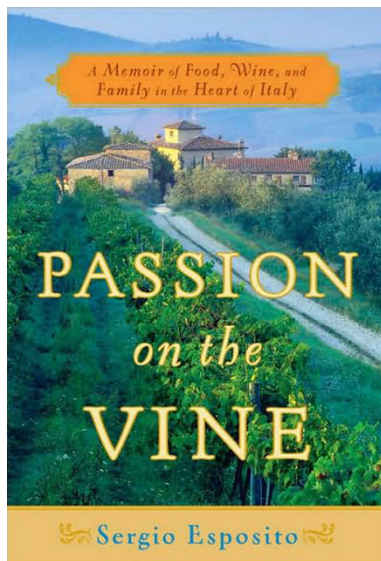


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Recommended travel books

With high gasoline prices, perhaps the summer's best vacation idea is to celebrate the adventures of travel in a book.



“Passion on the Vine: A Memoir of Food, Wine, and Family in the Heart of Italy”

By Sergio Esposito (Broadway Books, \$24.95)

Esposito, owner of Italian Wine Merchants in New York City, spent his childhood years in Naples, Italy. There his earliest memories were at the kitchen table as he watched his large, loud family devouring such delectable delights as buffalo mozzarella, still sopping with milk, platters of thinly sliced, fresh prosciutto, and, of course, the wonderful regional wines. His memoir is mainly about his colorful family life in Italy, his abrupt transition to America and his return to the country of his youth. His accounts of the food and wine that are such an important part of Italian life, and the poignant and often hilarious stories of his family and friends make this book engaging and seductive.