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# Finding Ourselves In Venice, Florence, Rome, & Barcelona: Aging Adventurers Discover The Power Of Place While Exploring Fascinating Cities At Their Own Relaxing Pace.





## Synopsis

Do you dream of riding a gondola along the canals of Venice? Tossing a coin into Rome's Trevi Fountain? Join Al and Sunny Lockwood as they explore these and other fascinating cities, gathering travel memories for a lifetime. Their informative, entertaining memoir shows how seasoned travelers can see the world while savoring all the excitement, romance and adventure they desire. The Lockwoods capture magical moments as they travel on their own by foot, bus and train. Their enchanting, entertaining experiences prove that being young at heart is all you need to relish our beautiful world. Whether you long to travel for enlightenment or escape or if you simply enjoy armchair travel, this warm personal odyssey will sweep you away to beautiful places and pleasure-filled adventures. Along with the Lockwoods you'll\* feel the mist on your face in early morning Venice,\* hear the deep, resonant church bells of Florence,\* walk where Colosseum gladiators once battled,\* savor intensely flavorful gelato,\* inhale spicy incense in a Barcelona fortuneteller's shop,\* and discover what Al and Sunny learn: that exciting, transforming travel is not the exclusive province of the young. These two find practical ways to see the world while shepherding their energy and travel funds. Their refreshing, easy-to-read memoir will have you searching for your passport. Grab your reading glasses and bon voyage!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Flexibility is vital for having a good time while traveling, because there will always be something that doesn't go the way you want it to." Boy, do I agree with that! Seems these folks traversed many of the same roads we did (Yellowstone, Smokies, even Laura Ingalls Wilder's home) as well as many places I want to be one day (Venice, Florence, Rome, etc.) Really enjoyed the descriptive manner in which they wrote as well as the travel tips such as St. Mark's Square, Venice not to be missed if you only have a few hours, buying skip-the-line tours for the Colosseum /Forum and nothing in the world comparing to Italian gelato (I'm sure it's even better than the frozen variety bought in our local grocery store). Had a real good time with this book, almost felt as if I was traveling with family and looking forward to tripping with them next in the book "Cruising the Mediterranean." Eccellente!

A book has to be pretty good for me to read it out loud to my wife! We just finished it this morning! If we can afford it, would love to see Venice someday!

What a delightful journey! I've been to Venice, Florence, and Rome years ago. With this book I joined Sunny and Al Lockwood on their journey to these beautiful sites and also visited Barcelona. I recommend this book for travelers and for those, like me, who need a welcome break from a stressful schedule to marvel at the glories of Renaissance art, slow down and savor a gelato, explore inspiring cathedrals, and realize, with Sunny, "how beauty--natural or human-made--can flood the soul with pleasure and elevate the spirit."

And interesting addition to Al and Sunny's travel memoirs. But how I wish they would include all the photos they keep telling us they are taking!

Worth reading for an armchair traveler like me who is unable to travel herself. The only thing that would make it better is a lot more photos.

I have thoroughly enjoyed living my dream through the words of Sunny and Sweetheart. Easy to

read and fully descriptive with travel tips well worth noting.

A great follow up to "Cruising....." Great ideas on how to create a joyful experience!

Sunny and Al Lockwood are senior citizens who met and married later in life. They both have wanderlust: *the longing simply to be somewhere different, breathing air filled with unfamiliar tension or sweet, enticing fragrances, where nothing is common and everything is new.* As a fellow travel aficionado, I understand this feeling entirely. The Lockwoods have taken several trips, but the one chronicled in this book took them to Venice, Florence, Rome, and Barcelona. Sunny shares some of her methods on planning these trips (she likes a frugal approach). She determined that it would be cheaper to take a *repositioning cruise* back to America after their European stint than to fly, so they did that. I was fascinated by this; I'd never heard of a repositioning cruise (for the record, a repositioning cruise is what they call moving a ship from one region to another at the end of the season). What a neat find! Part of what made this book so appealing were Al and Sunny's attitudes. Sunny truly lives up to her name, always finding the positives in aspects of their trip. One familiar theme would be something the couple planned to see, but couldn't for some reason (construction, fatigue, etc). Instead of being upset, they would just think, *We'll just have to come back.* Sunny explains that this *keeps me from feeling too sad over disappointments. It keeps me upbeat and flexible in the face of unexpected letdowns.* Sunny often refers to Al as *Sweetheart*. When I visited Europe in my 20s, it was usually in tour groups with lots of older retired couples. These people were almost always so friendly and nice. I picture Al and Sunny being a couple just like these! Since I've visited Venice, Florence, and Rome, I really enjoyed hearing the Lockwoods take on these cities. I imagined all the sites they visited, and enjoyed the book's excellent photographs of many of these sites as well. I could fully relate to the allure of Italian gelato. I feel like Sunny is a kindred spirit in some ways, because so often while reading this book I'd find something she'd say that I could have written myself. For instance: *Interestingly, when I travel, I notice beauty in things I wouldn't look at twice back home. Crumbling, deteriorating buildings appear beautiful to my traveler's eyes. Back home they might just look like slums.* I can't tell you how many times I've thought this. Or another observation: *I realize I'd forgotten how beautiful the Italians are. Everyone looks stylish.* This is so true! I remember remarking to my penpal, when I stayed with her in her Florence home for 2 weeks, that I hadn't seen a single ugly

person in Italy. She laughed, but it was really true. Apparently, "people of Walmart" only exist in America. And yet another "more experienced travelers, the kind who write guide books, might say that restaurants and cafes beside the Duomo are designed for tourists and therefore serve less authentic dishes and charge more than they should. But we find this sidewalk restaurant perfect for us." I've felt the same way. I have encountered several what I'll call "travel snobs" who eschew various typical tourist things abroad (a couple that come to mind, that I've enjoyed but that I've heard criticized online, are the London Dungeon and Rick Steves travel books). I love traveling and doing the things I\* enjoy, regardless of what someone more "elite? cultured? may think. I've never been to Spain (and honestly, it's one of Europe's countries that doesn't call to me all that much), so I was curious to see if I'd enjoy the Lockwoods' take on Barcelona. I really did! The Sagrada Familia, a huge cathedral there, sounded so wonderful that I almost want to add Barcelona to my bucket list just to see it. If you enjoy travel, I'd encourage you to check out Finding Ourselves in Venice, Florence, Rome, & Barcelona. Al and Sunny have a few other travel tales, too. They are a wonderful "and inexpensive" way to vicariously tour Europe.

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