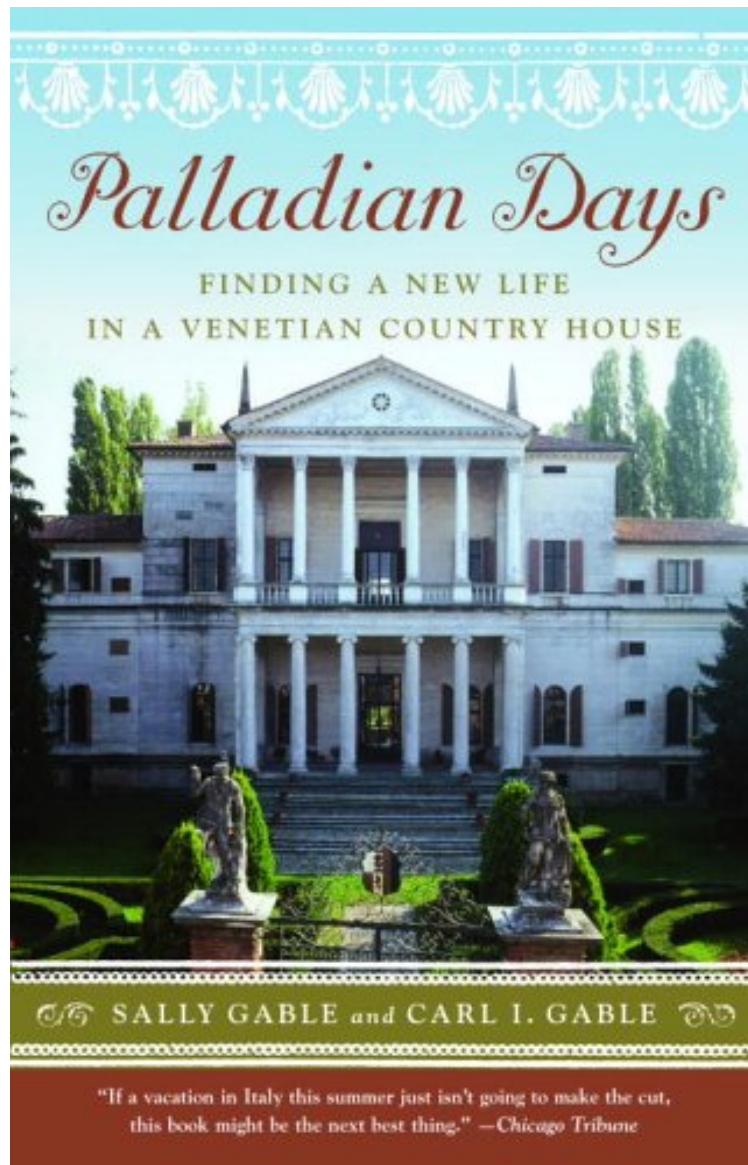


(Get free) Palladian Days: Finding a New Life in a Venetian Country House

Palladian Days: Finding a New Life in a Venetian Country House

Sally Gable, Carl I. Gable

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Sally Gable, Carl I. Gable : Palladian Days: Finding a New Life in a Venetian Country House before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Palladian Days: Finding a New Life in a Venetian Country House:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very engagingBy Jane BennettThe title is a bit dry (perhaps) but the book very definitely isn't. Andrea Palladio is the architect who gave his name to a 'Palladium', the Palladian style, and

has been copied all over the world: the White House is modelled on the style he developed. Their children largely grown up, an American couple were looking to buy a holiday home in the USA. Instead they happened across an advertisement for Villa Cornaro, a Palladian house in the Veneto, not far from Venice in northern Italy. Saw it, fell in love with it and bought it. The book describes the course of their discoveries about the history and setting of the house, and the Cornaros, the once famous and powerful family who once owned it as well as half a dozen of the palazzos along the Grand Canal in Venice. The authors write very well and make it far more interesting than I'd thought. I was just doing a bit of pre-travel research and thought bits of this book might be of interest - the whole book is fascinating: a romance, a story, a mystery and all beautifully unfolded and unfurled so that it is an engrossing read. Would that all history and back ground reading were so engaging and well written. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A lot to learn, a joy to read ! By Abraham Bensoussan Informative, amusing, thoughtful, analytic, on occasion sentimental - strikes a perfect balance, a great pleasure to read - unforgettable . . . Story in brief: Upon stumbling by chance over a classified advertisement Sally goes nuts over the idea of buying an Italian historic monument on sale, a real Palladian villa she can scarcely afford. The grand place is on sale and Sally gets really obsessed over it - she manages to drag her beloved, nonchalant, husband Carl into this too. A noble obsession indeed; Sally eventually overcomes all obstacles and succeeds in making her dream come true: she manages to buy the thing, and the rest is history. No, this is no fiction. Sally and Carl Gable are real persons. American, too - (sigh . . .). The book provides a lively and very personal account of the Gables' adventure of taking hold of the renowned Villa Cornaro, built by Andrea Palladio in 1552 for the wealthy Venetian patrician Giorgio Cornaro, the restoration jobs they had to undertake, their process of adapting to life within a rural Italian community, making friends, Veneto adventures and misadventures, history, local customs, culinary delights - and what have you. Along the way the reader gets a lot of information on the villa itself, its immediate surroundings and its history, as well as an overall historic and local background. I ordered Sally's book almost as an afterthought, bundled to my order of Palladio's "The Four Books on Architecture" (translated by Robert Tavernor) and Tavernor's own "Palladio and Palladianism" (two absolute "musts" on the subject of Palladian architecture, along with Vitruvius' "The Ten Books on Architecture"). That proved to be a lucky day. Sally Carl Gable's book details original Palladian architecture as seen from the perspective of the actual inhabitants of the architect's creation, and its surrounding community and history - a rare human-centric first-hand account, perfectly complementing scholarly publications on the subject. Informative, interesting and lively, never a boring moment, a lot to learn, a joy to read. When you are sad that a book is over, you know it has been a great book . . . Highly recommended (if that has not been apparent from the above). 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. For those who love Italy and Palladian architecture. By Postmodern design Sitting on a slow train thirty years ago I passed a unpainted house in the Palladian style with carved bull's skulls alternating with targets. I remember it vividly today. I wondered what it would be like to own and live in a Palladian house. It seemed a shame such a majestic house was not better kept. The style has instant appeal and that is why its popularity has been so persistent. As an Atlantan I wondered about an Atlanta couple, the Gables, who bought one of Palladio's masterpieces. Other reviewers have chaffed that they lack the money for such an endeavor. I would say that what the Gables took on was a commitment beyond me and they have the intelligence, drive and understanding to maintain, share and preserve the house. Francis Mayes, another Georgian, is a better writer. But Sally Gable is very readable and I admired her adventures. I really liked reading this book because it immerses the reader in the setting, town life, cultural affairs, local politics, trials and tribulations of keeping up a monumental house and the pleasures of visitors, acquaintances and family. This is a book about selecting the right dream, following the dream and enhancing the experience. Anyone who will travel to Italy to visit Venice or Palladian homes will gain a travel guide from this book.

"Palladian Days is nothing short of wonderful—part adventure, mystery, history, diary, and even cookbook. The Gables' lively account captures the excitement of their acquisition and restoration of one of the greatest houses in Italy. Beguiled by Palladio and the town of Piombino Dese, they trace the history of the Villa Cornaro and their absorption of Italian life. Bravo!" —Susan R. Stein, Gilder Curator and Vice President of Museum Programs, Monticello In 1552, in the countryside outside Venice, the great Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio built Villa Cornaro. In 1989, Sally and Carl Gable became its bemused new owners. Called by Town Country one of the ten most influential buildings in the world, the villa is the centerpiece of the Gables' enchanting journey into the life of a place that transformed their own. From the villa's history and its architectural pleasures, to the lives of its former inhabitants, to the charms of the little town that surrounds it, this loving account brings generosity, humor, and a sense of discovery to the story of small-town Italy and its larger national history.

From Publishers Weekly Eighteen of the innovative 16th-century villas by Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio survive today in Italy's Veneto region, and one of them, Villa Cornaro, made it onto Town Country's list of the world's 10 most important buildings. The sixth family to occupy this country house during its 450-year history, the Gables reside there for half the year (she's on the boards of various educational and musical organizations; he's a lawyer and author of a book on Venetian glass). Sally Gable portrays the villa, the people who live in the surrounding countryside

and their fading traditions, which "may be in their last generation." In fluid prose, she recalls the 1987–1988 negotiations that led to the couple's purchase, the previous inhabitants and her research into the history of the palatial house, its 104 frescoes and Palladio himself. Surmounting swarming bees and the usual maintenance problems, the Gables brought grandeur back to the villa, eventually receiving house guests and film crews, hosting dinner parties and staging cultural events. This delightful mix of memoir, travel guide and recipes is, in essence, a twist on these well-worn genres—a very chic, expensive twist at that. Photos. Agent, Kitty Benedict. (July 1) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist An Atlanta couple sets out to buy a second home in New Hampshire and ends up with a villa in the Veneto. Not just any old villa, this is a genuine architectural monument designed by none other than Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. The columned marvel set down among formal gardens appealed to the Gables as a near-perfect representation of everything they loved about northern Italy. Laden with 104 frescoes, Villa Cornaro needs some updating to make it habitable for twenty-first-century residents, so the Gables go about marshaling the aid of local residents and learning Venetan, the local dialect some distance removed from standard Italian. Having recently banded together to save the villa from turning into a sports palace, local farmers won government backing to preserve the monument and are initially suspicious of the new American owners. Intractable problems lead the villa's owners to a sense of resignation and acceptance of what can't be changed and a deeper appreciation of the beauty that the villa and its gardens offer as a frame for living. Mark Knoblauch Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved. "If a vacation in Italy this summer just isn't going to make the cut, this book might be the next best thing." –Chicago Tribune "Timeless and completely modern. . . . Should be enjoyed while dreaming of the Venetian countryside, a tall glass of Prosecco in hand." –Forbes FYI "Palladian Days lifts the notion of buying a summer house to dizzying and delightful new heights. Sally and Carl Gable's fascinating account reads like a fast-paced, marvelously satisfying adventure story." –John Berendt, author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and *The City of Falling Angels*