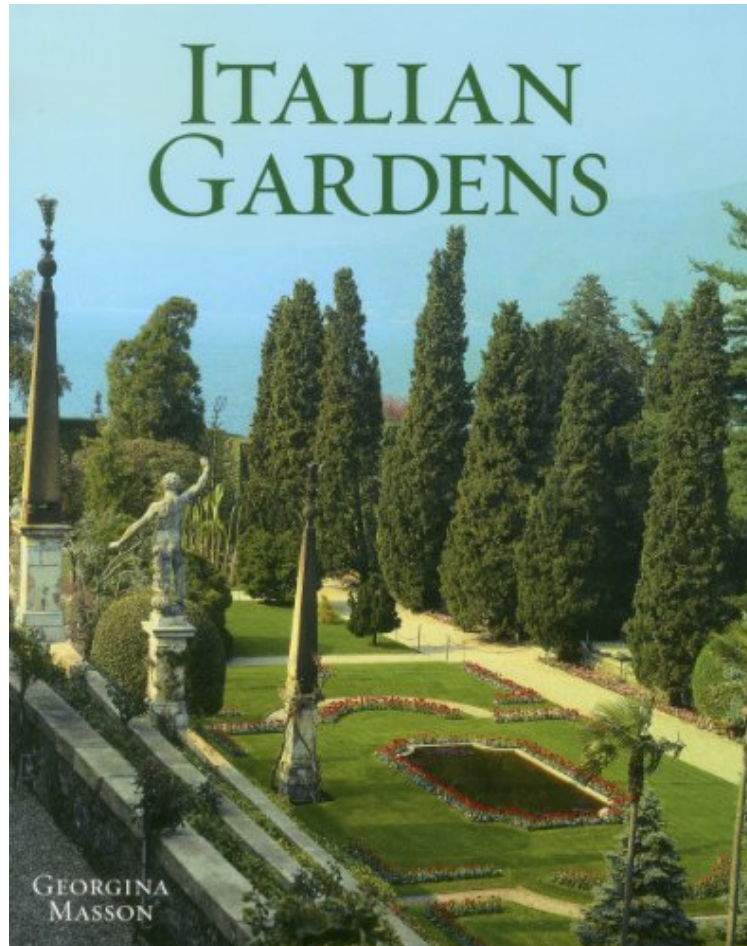


Italian Gardens

Georgina Masson

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Georgina Masson : Italian Gardens before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Italian Gardens:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. The VERY best! By Lupo Montegrigio This is the very best book on the subject and it was written in the early 60's. But that doesn't really matter since the villas and gardens are timeless. And here you will find them all! Well, an intelligent and generous selection anyway, since there are an abundance of interesting places. The author presents lesser known ones others sadly omit. Photos are solely black and white (in the original edition) but still great. The text is as good as you can wish for, she knows her topic intimately. Although the photographs are numerous and excellent, this is not a coffee table book you just browse and are done with. The informative and captivating text is the main attraction and the photographs are accompanying it. The disposition is by chapters following the design evolution chronologically and at the same geographically. Starting with the early Roman gardens around Rome and towards Pompeii, continuing in the second with medieval gardens from Milan to Ravello. The early Renaissance is ahead, spreading from Florence over Tuscany in this chapter and reaching Latium and Rome

in the following one. Slightly later in time and style are the gardens of Marche and Veneto we explore in the last part of the book, covering the north area of the lakes, Milan and Genoa where the renaissance blends into baroque in many designs. This way of presenting works surprisingly well. Still the ultimate book on Italian gardens! Her original photographs (more numerous than are published in her books) can be seen in the online photo archive of the American Academy in Rome to which she bequeathed them.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. Splendid Pre-Trip review By Serena Dubach I bought this book shortly before leaving to visit several of the gardens included. Beautiful color and black and white in it. Excellent text.

- A completely revised new edition of gifted amateur garden art-historian Georgina Masson's classic text alongside her original photographs, which have been kept until now in the archives of the American Academy in Rome. Includes many new images Originally published in 1961 as a complementary study to Geoffrey Jellicoe's architectural work *Italian Gardens of the Renaissance*, this book is intended to present a layman's point of view on the subject. It provides immediate first impressions of the countless pleasures that are a feast to the senses, while providing a comprehensive background to the gardens, their antecedents and history. Tracing a line through the history and topography of Italy, Mary Johnson, writing under the pseudonym of Georgina Masson, picks out the finest examples of gardens dating from the Renaissance, Mannerist and Baroque periods. Primarily, it is a masterpiece of photography, evoking fond memories for those who have already visited the gardens and persuasive to those who have not. Secondly, it is a very able study of the history of Italian gardens from their inception in ancient Rome to the triumphs of the Baroque; no one who encountered Mary when on the full flight of research will forget her total dedication to the subject.

About the Author Georgina Masson (Marion Johnson, 1912-1980) was born in the Far East. A widely-travelled English citizen, she established herself in Rome in the 1940s and remained in Italy until 1978. A scholar and excellent photographer, she was a profound connoisseur of Rome and her classic work, *The Companion Guide to Rome* (1965), is still in print today. She is also the author of two books on Italian architecture, both of which have been translated into several languages; *Italian Villas and Palaces* (1959) and *Italian Villas and Gardens* (1961). The American Academy in Rome, which she often visited, holds the negatives of her beautiful black and white photographs. Margherita Azzi Visentini is Professor of History of Architecture and History of Gardens and Landscape at the Politecnico of Milan. She has been Visiting Professor at the Center for landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington D.C., at the Yale Center for British Art, Yale University, and at the CASVA at the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.