

Armchair Travel

Next Reads – Spring 2010
Previously Purchased Armchair Travel



appétit!

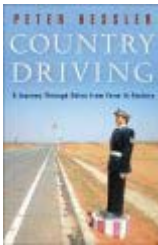
[Lunch in Paris: A Love Story, with Recipes](#) - by Elizabeth Bard

When Elizabeth, an American working in London, meets Gwendal, a Frenchman in town for a conference, the two hit it off. Before long, they are having lunch together in Paris, falling in love, and getting married. Using food as a frame, Elizabeth documents their courtship, describing mouth-watering dishes (such as molten chocolate cake and summer ratatouille) as well as shopping in a foreign language (her butcher looks like Matt Dillon) and choosing a wedding cake (one that's not gaudy). If you'd like a charming tale of an ex-pat in love with food, France, and her Frenchman, try *Lunch in Paris*. Recipes are included--bon



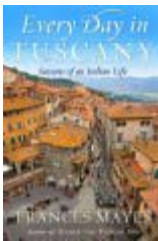
[The Routes of Man: How Roads Are Changing the World, and the Way We Live Today](#) - by Ted Conover

In *The Routes of Man*, author Ted Conover explores six varied paths: in Peru, he traces a load of rare mahogany (intended for a New York home) over the Andes; in East Africa, he visits truckers whose travels--and visits with prostitutes--have been linked to the spread of AIDS; in the West Bank, he monitors highway checkpoints with Israeli soldiers and then passes through them with Palestinians; in a Himalayan valley, he shuffles down a frozen riverbed to see how a new road will affect the now-isolated Indian region of Ladakh; in China, he describes the exuberant upsurge in car culture as highways proliferate; and in Lagos, Nigeria, he rides along with an ambulance crew. If you enjoyed Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, you might be interested in Conover's international road trip.



[Country Driving: A Journey from Farm to Factory](#) - by Peter Hessler

If the idea of driving across China gives you pause, what with the high mortality rate, but you'd still like to know what it'd be like, let *New Yorker* writer Peter Hessler do the driving for you. Over the course of seven years, Hessler traveled more than 7,000 miles across the huge and changing country, following the Great Wall in the north, checking out rural areas in the mountains near Beijing, and visiting newly paved areas in the south. *Time* magazine says that *Country Driving* is "the best yet from Peter Hessler, whose two earlier books, *River Town* and *Oracle Bones*, were exemplary." If you'd like to read more about road tripping in China, pick up Rob Gifford's *China Road*.



[Every Day in Tuscany: Seasons of an Italian Life](#) - by Frances Mayes

In her latest ode to the Italian life, bestselling author Frances Mayes is once again living in Cortina, Tuscany. This time, Mayes is in the mountains above the town, renovating a 13th-century cottage while consuming delicious meals with friends and neighbors. Mayes' "evocative writing simply oozes charm and warmth" (*Booklist*) as she describes the region, its food, and its people. Can't make it to Italy this year? Then pick up Mayes' 3rd Italian memoir (after *Under the Tuscan Sun* and *Bella Tuscany*). On the hold list for *Every Day in Tuscany*? Try one of food writer/chef Marlena De Blasi's books about her adventures across bella Italia (*A Thousand Days in Venice* is the 1st).



[The Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval England: A Handbook for Visitors to the Fourteenth Century](#) - by Ian Mortimer

If you suddenly found yourself in the middle of 14th-century England, where could you safely lay your head for the night? What would you wear? What type of money would you use? How would you know if you were coming down with leprosy? And what about using the bathroom? These questions and many more are answered in this well-researched book that is an "exceptional social history, compellingly told" (*Library Journal*, starred review). While *The Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval England* isn't your typical travel book, it's just the ticket for readers who'd like to take a fascinating trip to the past.



[Surviving Paradise: My Year on a Disappearing Island](#) - by Peter Rudiak-Gould

Deep in the South Pacific--more than 2,500 miles from the nearest continent--lies the atoll of Ujae, which is part of the Marshall Islands, less than one square mile in land mass, and home to fewer than 500 people. Twenty-one-year-old American Peter Rudiak-Gould travels to this remote land to school the local children in English--only things don't go quite as planned for the budding anthropologist. Rudiak-Gould describes his experiences (teaching, spearfishing) and observations (the surprising amount of noise, how parents treat their kids) in his funny and moving book that will have readers rethinking their dreams of the easy life in paradise.