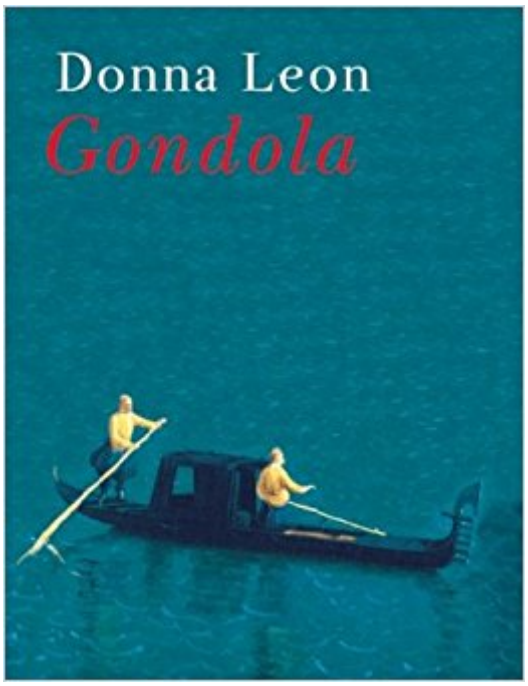
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Gondola



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Synopsis

Of all the trademarks of Venice, none is more ubiquitous than the gondola. In this beautifully illustrated collection, internationally bestselling author Donna Leon tells fascinating stories about this famous boat. First used in medieval Venice as an easily maneuverable getaway boat, the gondola evolved over the centuries into a floating pleasure palace that facilitated the romantic escapades of the Venetian elite. Now a tourist favorite, the gondola has never ceased to be a part of authentic Venice. Each boatÃ¢â ¬â„¢s 280 pieces are carefully fashioned in a maestroÃ¢â ¬â„¢s workshop—though Leon also recounts a tale of an American friend who decided to make a gondola all on his own, a feat that took five years to complete. But the gondola is a work of art well worth the labor—and the barcarole sung from its prow are no less masterful. The best of these popular sings sung by the gondolieri are included on an accompanying CD, including an exclusive track from Cecilia Bartoli.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“A delightful look at the gondola as cultural icon, marvel of construction and object of romance and mystery.Ã¢â ¬Â•—Opera News

Donna Leon is the author of the internationally bestselling Commissario Guido Brunetti series. The winner of the CWA Macallan Silver Dagger for Fiction, among other awards, Leon was born in New Jersey and has lived in Venice for thirty years.

Very interesting book - illustrations are wonderful, and CD was a really pleasant surprise. I can see why Donna Leon sometimes bothers the "natives," but I agree wholeheartedly with her concern about the Cruise Ships - keep them out of the canal - environmentally, it is insane to allow them in that historic and very special waterway. I can think of several possibilities to continue to make use of the tourist money without the ships on the inside. . .

You have to understand what this book is before you buy it. It’s a combination of the historical and present-day role of the gondola in Venician life,a somewhat arcane description of building one, a rant against tourist cruise ships (which I happen to agree with), and a reprise of some of the themes from the Brunetti novels (e.g. Italian governmental corruption).I liked the book, but not everyone will find it as fulfilling as a new Brunetti....

This short book by Donna Leon takes a unique view of Venice by a long time resident and lover of the city. Leon combines a short history and an explanation of the construction and use of this Venetian icon with relevant paintings and music. As a reader of all of her Commissario Brunetti mysteries and visitor to this her city, I felt that I "knew" Venice already. But this volume puts icing on the cake. As an over three decade resident of the city, her love and concern for Venice are evident in this volume as well. And the musicÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â| her love for it and her financial support over the years set the CD and words (in Venetian and English) to the "barcarole" in the center of this "Gondolian" experience. Her attack on the cruise ships which ply the Grand Canal is epic!

Lovely pictures and music.Interesting tale of building a gondola and its history.Should also read the Gondola Maker

This is a treasure for Venice enthusiasts. Especially notable is the collection of AUTHENTÃƒâ Ã Â C Venetian boating songs offered by the accompanyÃƒâ |Ã Å¸ng CD which are hard to hear anywhere else. O Sole Mio has been relegated to Naples where it belongs.

A lovely essay on the Gondola, it’s history and the building of one. included are some recorded "songs" on a CD. If you are a Leon Fan as I am her writing just draws you in.

Gondola is a close look at the development and fabrication of the vehicle. It is not historically deep and the writing is a bit pallid. Ms.Donna Leon’s success in her affectionate Brunett-themed novels

make one expect more substance. Most of the information could have been incorporated in one of her fictions.

Just returned from a trip there, and this will be great to bring back some of that magic I felt while I was there!

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Gondola

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