



Non-Fiction  
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- Pages 224
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- Softcover

**Fabio Marzano**

## the Return of the Plants

Stories of new coexistences between man and nature

Nature reclaims its ground. Plants return to urban environments. This remarkable phenomenon, driven by both human intervention and the tenacious spirit of many plant species, is transforming the fringes of our cities.

The journey begins in unlikely places: the ruins of industrial sites and contaminated areas. Among the rubble, landscapes like area B of Seveso and the Sulcis mines now harbor orchids with astonishing adaptive abilities, captivating botanists with their resilience. Even Rome's Acqua Bullicante lake has become a haven for diverse plant life.

Plants are thriving even in challenging environments, revitalized in Milan's "botanical clinics," flourishing in wetlands and floodplains across Sicily, the Po Valley, and the Adige River basin. Climate change plays a role too, fostering the growth of tropical species alongside native flora.

Nature reclaims its urban space: olive trees and grapevines return with a vengeance, creating urban groves and vineyards. And of course, the captivating world of urban gardens flourishes.

This book delves into these trends with real-world examples, anticipating critical discussions: the European Parliament's proposed Restoration Law for ecosystem restoration, the challenges of circular economy models, and the pursuit of sustainable cities. All this unfolds against the backdrop of our fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.

**Fabio Marzano** is a writer, journalist and botany expert. He has travelled through the last lost paradises in Latin America and Africa, and his articles on plants have been published in "La Repubblica", "L'Espresso" and "Airone". He lives in Turin, where he cultivates a small garden on a balcony which is constantly in shadow.



- Pages 360
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**Luca Bergamin**

## Words and Blooms

Exploring the Gardens of Great Authors

A journey into the gardens that inspired some of the most beloved writers of world literature, to discover the very strong, practically essential link between high writing and botany.

For Luca Bergamin there can be no literature without a garden and vice versa.

Embark on a captivating journey through thirty-two chapters, each a portal to a cherished haunt of a literary giant. From the Sicilian villas that birthed "The Leopard" to Virginia Woolf's beloved gardens, explore the landscapes that sparked the imaginations of renowned authors.

Literary luminaries come alive in their cherished spaces: Robert Frost contemplates nature at Boston's Arnold Arboretum, Jane Austen finds solace among the roses of Chawton Gardens, and Fyodor Dostoevsky seeks inspiration in the Boboli Gardens of Florence.

The book delves into Italian influences, from the English gardens that enchanted Eugenio Montale at the Royal Palace of Caserta to Grazia Deledda's home in Nuoro and the olive grove of "Caos" that sheltered Luigi Pirandello, Spanish literary giants like Javier Marías strolling the gardens of Madrid and José Saramago in his native Lanzarote.

"Words and Blooms" invites you to lose yourself among the trees and flowers, experiencing literature through the lens of its cherished landscapes.

**Luca Bergamin** was born in Milan and lives between the Monkey Puzzle Trees and the Salento seaside. He worked for the foreign editorial staff of national television news, writes about architecture, travel, gardens, places and people for the «Corriere della Sera» and «Il Sole 24 ore». He also wrote articles for «El Mundo», «Le Figaro» and «The Financial Times». He recently published *On headlights* (Il Mulino, 2023).



- Pages 320
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Pier Luigi Pizzi

## Never Rest Easy

The memoirs of Pier Luigi Pizzi, one of the most important directors, set and costume designers of all time, cover just under a century of theatrical history, Italian as well as international.

Performances, encounters, passions and secrets of one of the all-time greats among Italian theatrical directors. A heartfelt account of almost a century of stage life experienced in the first person, always bordering on irony, even in its most dramatic pages.

Born in 1930, a spectator at La Scala as a child, then displaced by the bombing of Milan, he witnessed the great cultural ferment of the post-war period, until he discovered his theatrical vocation. Ranging from one repertoire to another, from one language to another, in a career divided among drama, opera and cinema, there is no artist, director, singer or conductor whom he has not crossed paths with, starting with Luchino Visconti, Giorgio De Lullo and Romolo Valli in the years of the Compagnia dei Giovani, Luca Ronconi, Monserrat Caballé and Leyla Gencer, Giannandrea Gavazzeni and Riccardo Muti, Federico Fellini and Giorgio Strehler, Valentina Cortese and Franca Valeri.

Pizzi's recollections are like secrets revealed to the reader between one play and another of the more than one thousand plays that he has staged, but whether they are merry or dramatic stories, lighthearted or profound, the important thing for him is to tell them capturing the reader's attention, without ever taking himself too seriously.

**Pier Luigi Pizzi** (Milan 1930), set designer, director and costume designer, has been working in the world of drama and of opera since 1951, with important forays into cinema alongside, among others, De Sica and Fellini. Present in the most important theaters and festivals around the world, he can be said to have made the history of worldwide stage direction, gaining prestigious international recognition. He has been living mainly in Venice for many years.



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Fabio Marzano

## Tales of Plants

### A Bizarre Journey through the World of Italian Vegetation

Italian gardens and botanical gardens are a treasure trove of strange, fascinating stories about plants and the adventures that brought them to our shores. Fabio Marzano is the ideal guide to explore them and to realise how important all this is for us.

Actually, the flowers and trees can talk to those who have a particularly sensitive ear, and often tell wonderful stories. Stories of sacred woods, centuries-old trees, obsessive collectors or of species which have travelled all over the world and through history. In this book Fabio Marzano, writer and botany expert, has gathered together some of the best stories. Here we learn of important species from exotic countries and the culprits in Italy of memorable industrial failures or of meteoric rises to wealth. Of secret itineraries, often aided by real acts of biological piracy, that many of these rare items took to arrive in our neck of the woods. Of those who were once called plant hunters, halfway between botanists and plant dealers and who now work in universities and research centres – and who are mostly women. The volume is accompanied by a practical guide to the places to visit.

**Fabio Marzano** is a writer, journalist and botany expert. He has travelled through the last lost paradises in Latin America and Africa, and his articles on plants have been published in "La Repubblica", "L'Espresso" and "Airone". He lives in Turin, where he cultivates a small garden on a balcony which is constantly in shadow.



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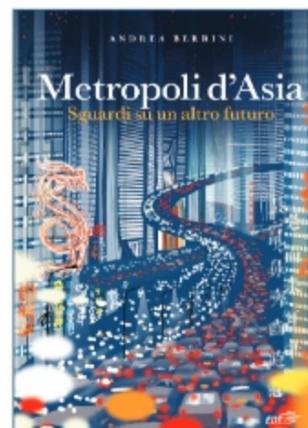
Giovanni Carlo Federico Villa

## A People of Statues

Italy by its Monuments

Italy's heritage of monuments is the largest integrated museum in the country, and it is spread quite evenly throughout the entire peninsula. A museum now often neglected, yet still carefully preserved and restored, and constantly enlarged by new, often improbable or bizarre openings. Since the Renaissance, public statuary has represented a form of silent dialogue between power and the citizen, but it was especially with the Risorgimento and the Unification of Italy that the monuments began an attempt, within the cityscape, at a civic and heroic narrative necessary to fulfill the idea of nationhood. Giovanni Carlo Federico Villa's book is a journey through twenty-one Italian cities and one Italian region told through their heritage of monuments. A point of view that often, in its incongruity and stratification, tells a great deal about the area's history, character and vicissitudes. The cities explored are Aosta, Turin, Genoa, Milan, Bergamo, Brescia, Trento, Padua, Venice, Trieste, Parma, Bologna, Florence, Livorno, Terni, Rome, Naples, Bari, Lecce, Catania, and Palermo plus a chapter on Sardinia.

**Giovanni Carlo Federico Villa** is an art historian, the author of numerous monographs devoted to great Italian artists, the curator of major exhibitions and the current director of the National Museum of Palazzo Madama in Turin. An associate professor of the History of Modern Art at the University of Bergamo, his numerous publications include: *Venezia, l'altro Rinascimento* (Venice, the Other Renaissance). 1450-1581 (Einaudi 2014), *Tintoretto* (Silvana 2013), *Palma. L'invenzione della bellezza* (Palma. The Invention of Beauty) (Skira 2015), *Antonello da Messina* (Skira 2019).



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Andrea Berrini

## Asian Metropolises

A vision of a different future

For ten years Berrini has travelled around eastern and southern Asia as an editor, hunting for new talents to translate and publish in Italy. He lived in Peking for three years, he took a break several times, for months, in Bombay and Singapore, he has visited Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur many times. The author explains to us the attraction for the changing world, going in the space of one generation from underdevelopment to super modernity, evolving so fast that people's existence is totally disrupted. The five metropolises are described through meetings with the writers, editors and artists, acute observers of this transformation: Beijing, Kuala Lumpur, Bombay, Hong Kong, Singapore.

**Andrea Berrini**, writer, editor and businessman, is the author of *The Soul of the Bulldozer*. Trip through the new African shanty town (Baldini e Castoldi, 1996), *We are the working class* (Baldini Castoldi Dalai, 2004), *The microcredit novel* (Baldini Castoldi Dalai, 2008), *Writers from cities* (Iacobelli, 2017). His publishing house is named *Metropoli d'Asia* and deals with contemporary Asian narratives. He lived for a long time in Peking, Bombay, Singapore. He is the founder of *CreSud*, and he has been involved in microfinance for twenty-five years.



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Silvia Benvenuti

## Travelling with Numbers

Ten strolls for mathcurious travellers

“Maths-tourism” is a tendency which is spreading out from the Anglo-Saxon countries to almost the whole of Europe, including Italy, on the strength of the increasing interest that numbers and mathematics are arousing among members of the public. The idea is to visit a city of art or a place which is steeped in history, with the accompaniment of an expert guide and discover the wealth of numbers and mathematics in its architectural and urban fabric. Discovering how often, behind the facade of a building, in the perspective of a famous fresco, in the structure of a bridge or a dome seen many times, is hidden a surprising mathematical challenge, which frequently has involved illustrious personalities of the history of science and art, from Leonardo to Bramante, constitutes an amusing new basis to travel and to appreciate our urban tissue.

**Silvia Benvenuti** is Associate Professor of Complementary Mathematics at the University of Bologna and has been involved in the communication of mathematics for many years. She is the author of a book on non- Euclidean geometries edited by Alphatest (2008), *Mathematics Salad 3*, *Seven variations on art, design and architecture* (2010), *Mathematics Salad. Guided tastings to stimulate the appetite for numbers*, with Robert Ghattas and Paolo Gangemi (2016), edited by Sironi and of a number of articles of scientific communication. For many years she has been a guest on Rai 3 and Rai Scuola programmes.

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