



UN AMICO ITALIANO: Eat, Pray, Love in Rome*

By Luca Spaghetti

** An Italian Friend*

Praise for *UN AMICO ITALIANO*

“Luca Spaghetti is not only one of my favorite people in the world, but also a natural-born storyteller . . . This [is a] marvelous book.”—**Elizabeth Gilbert**, author of *Eat, Pray, Love*

The Italy portion of Elizabeth Gilbert’s *Eat, Pray, Love*, with all of its delicious food and indulgence, was the crowd-pleaser for many of its millions of readers. It wasn’t just Liz’s mouthwatering descriptions of the food that readers fell in love with, but the stories of the warm and welcoming friends she made in Rome. ***UN AMICO ITALIANO: Eat, Pray, Love in Rome*** (Penguin; \$15; ISBN: 978-0-14-311957-9; On sale May 2011; translated by Antony Shugaar) is by Luca Spaghetti (that *is* his real name!), Gilbert’s close friend and gastronomical guide to Rome. This is the story of their friendship, and the city, the people, and the food that inspired it.

In September 2003 Luca received an email from an American friend that would change his life: “A friend from university is about to move to Rome for three months. She’ll contact you. She’s a writer and her name is Elizabeth Gilbert.” He imagined some steely, buttoned-up intellectual who would look suspiciously over her spectacles at his Roman ebullience, but as we know the reality was very different. Luca became a tour guide/guardian angel to Liz, determined that he—and his city—would help his new friend out of her funk. In ***UN AMICO ITALIANO*** Luca and the Eternal City work a similar magic on readers.

UN AMICO ITALIANO is told in three parts, each one full of colorful anecdotes relating to food, language, art, soccer, music, and everyday life in beautiful Rome. In part one Luca reminisces about what it was like to grow up in a place that is so steeped in history, among his fellow Romans, who have a reputation among Italians for being open and boisterous – smart alecks in the most loveable way. Luca’s voice and character are charming, unique and irresistibly Roman.

In part two we follow Luca to America where we see the quintessential Roman exulting in his love of American music and culture, from seeing the Yankees play at home in New York to taking an Amtrak train cross-country to California. Through the eyes of this funny and endearing foreigner we get to appreciate our own country and its quirks.

Part three brings us back to Rome and Liz Gilbert, behind the scenes of the three months during which Liz and Luca's bond was sealed across dinner tables, in the streets and piazzas, and in soccer stadiums (where Luca taught her the most colorful profanities). We get an intimate view of the events in *Eat, Pray, Love* from the other side, and feel the joy of living Liz's story all over again.

Throughout *UN AMICO ITALIANO* Luca Spaghetti is a heartfelt, funny, and totally charming character, welcoming readers into his life and his city with open arms, just as he did with Liz Gilbert.

About the Author:

Luca Spaghetti and Elizabeth Gilbert are still very close friends today. He was born and lives in Rome. He loves Roman cooking, American music, and the Lazio soccer team. *UN AMICO ITALIANO* is his first book.

About the Translator:

Antony Shugaar is a writer and translator. Among his recent translations is *Sandokan* by Nanni Balestrini, for which he was awarded a 2007 NEA translation fellowship.

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