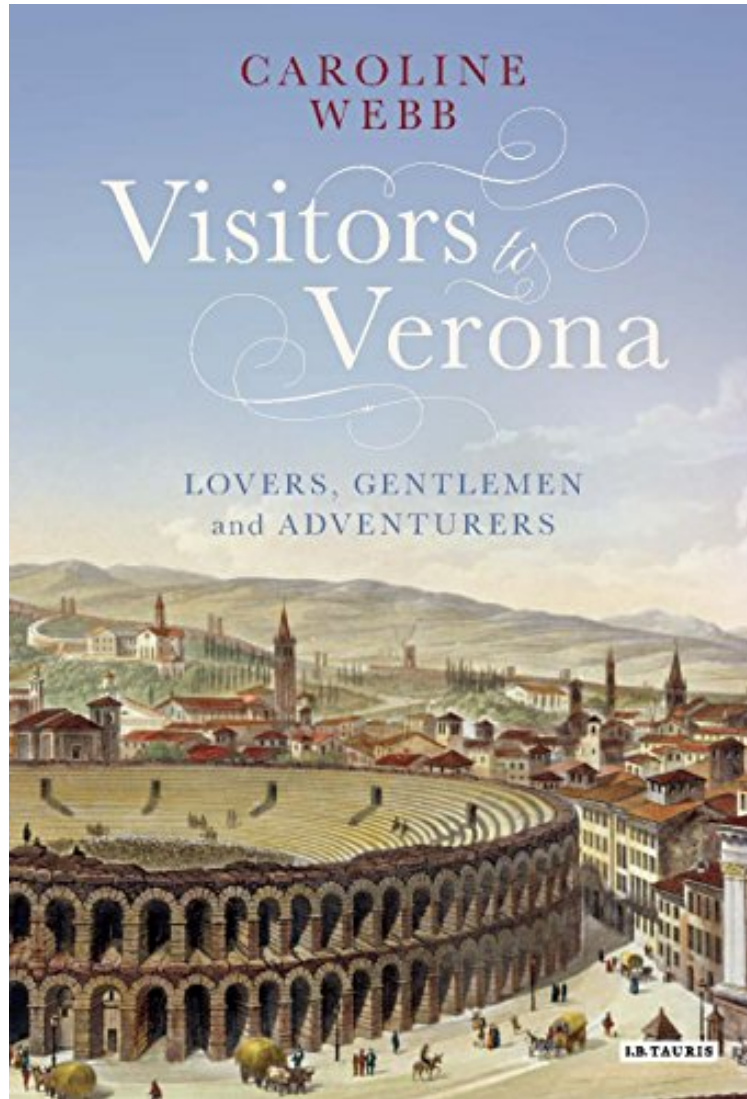


Visitors to Verona: Lovers, Gentlemen and Adventurers

Caroline Webb

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Caroline Webb : Visitors to Verona: Lovers, Gentlemen and Adventurers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Visitors to Verona: Lovers, Gentlemen and Adventurers:

Even before the advent of mass tourism, Verona was a popular destination with travellers, including those undertaking the popular 'Grand Tour' across Europe. In this book, Caroline Webb compares the experiences of travellers from the era of Shakespeare to the years following the incorporation of the Veneto into the new kingdom of Italy in 1866. She considers their reasons for visiting Verona as well as their experiences and expectations once they arrived. The

majority of English visitors between 1670 and 1760 were young members of the aristocracy, accompanied by tutors, who arrived on their way to or from Rome, as part of a 'Grand Tour' intended to 'finish' their classical education. With the Industrial Revolution in the second half of the eighteenth century, and the resultant increasing wealth of the upper middle classes, the number of visitors to Verona increased although this tourism was derailed once Napoleon invaded Italy in the late 1790s. After 1815 and the allied victory at Waterloo there was a new flood of visitors, previously deprived of the opportunity of continental travel during the Napoleonic wars. As the nineteenth century progressed, especially with the arrival of the railway, an increasing number of visitors appeared from across Europe and even from across the Atlantic, keen to explore the fabled city of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. In comparing a myriad of varied accounts, this book provides an unrivalled perspective on the history of one of Italy's most seductive cities.

Visitors to Verona is a rich compendium of travellers' impressions of Verona in the 18th and 19th century. It is lively, amusing and extremely instructive as to the checkered history of the city (for example, its conditions under French and Austrian occupation), thus reminding us of how much Verona has endured. (The 20th century was to be no less dramatic.) From Shakespeare to Napoleon, from Dickens to James and Ruskin - the characters and comments in this book are endlessly fascinating. After reading it we very much want to return to Verona with renewed interest and knowledge. Caroline Webb has done a service to the visitor who wants to appreciate more deeply all that Verona means and has meant to its citizens and guests. (Massimo Bacigalupo, Professor of American Literature at the University of Genoa 2016-12-30) This is a richly informative cornucopia of travel accounts of one of Italy's most fascinating cities. (Edward Chaney, Professor of Fine and Decorative Arts at Southampton Solent University 2016-12-30) This book is a delight to read and provides a charming and fresh picture of Verona's daily life in past centuries. The author combines facts and travellers' accounts with masterly skill in a cohesive and lively framework. (Professor Giandemetrio Marangoni, Universities of Verona Lugano 2016-12-30) Visitors to Verona brings together a fascinating collection of writings, offering all kinds of insights into the national characters of both the Italians and the British, how they changed over centuries of travel and tourism and how each reacted to the other, whether with prejudice or admiration, or both. It's an intriguing slice of history and rich food for thought. Those who want to go that way will find Brexit in the making. (Tim Parks, Author of Italian Neighbours and A Season with Verona 2016-12-30) About the Author Caroline Webb graduated in History from the University of London and read Italian and Art History in Cambridge and Verona. She has worked as a historical researcher and teacher and is co-author of *The Earl and His Butler in Constantinople: The Secret Diary of an English Servant among the Ottomans* (I.B.Tauris, 2008).