

[PDF] Palladian Days: Finding A New Life In A Venetian Country House

Sally Gable, Carl I. Gable - pdf download free book

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Eighteen of the innovative 16th-century villas by Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio survive today in Italy's Veneto region, and one of them, Villa Cornaro, made it onto *Town & Country's* list of the world's 10 most important buildings. The sixth family to occupy this country house during its 450-year history, the Gables reside there for half the year (she's on the boards of various educational and musical organizations; he's a lawyer and author of a book on Venetian glass). Sally Gable portrays the villa, the people who live in the surrounding countryside and their fading traditions, which "may be in their last generation." In fluid prose, she recalls the 1987-1988 negotiations that led to the couple's purchase, the previous inhabitants and her research into the history of the palatial house, its 104 frescoes and Palladio himself. Surmounting swarming

bees and the usual maintenance problems, the Gables brought grandeur back to the villa, eventually receiving house guests and film crews, hosting dinner parties and staging cultural events. This delightful mix of memoir, travel guide and recipes is, in essence, a twist on these well-worn genres—a very chic, expensive twist at that. Photos. *Agent, Kitty Benedict. (July 1)*
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From An Atlanta couple sets out to buy a second home in New Hampshire and ends up with a villa in the Veneto. Not just any old villa, this is a genuine architectural monument designed by none other than Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. The columned marvel set down among formal gardens appealed to the Gables as a near-perfect representation of everything they loved about northern Italy. Laden with 104 frescoes, Villa Cornaro needs some updating to make it habitable for twenty-first-century residents, so the Gables go about marshaling the aid of local residents and learning Venetan, the local dialect some distance removed from standard Italian. Having recently banded together to save the villa from turning into a sports palace, local farmers won government backing to preserve the monument and are initially suspicious of the new American owners. Intractable problems lead the villa's owners to a sense of resignation and acceptance of what can't be changed and a deeper appreciation of the beauty that the villa and its gardens offer as a frame for living.
Mark Knoblauch

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