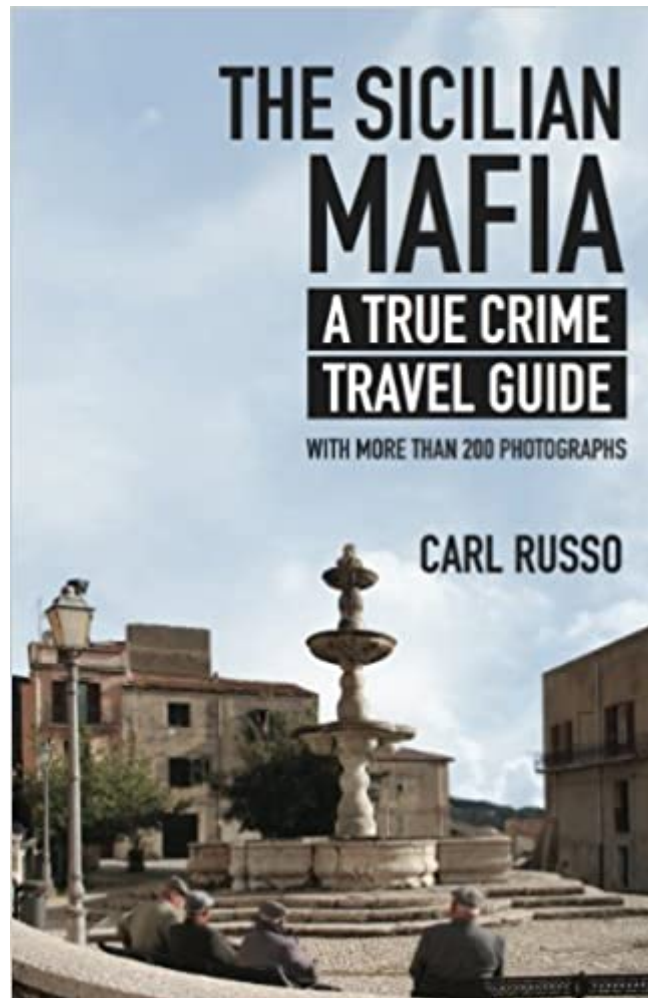




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# The Sicilian Mafia: A True Crime Travel Guide



## Synopsis

The Sicilian Mafia: A True Crime Travel Guide is the first book of its kind in any language: the ultimate Cosa Nostra experience. Since 2006, author Carl Russo has photographed Mafia hotspots on the Italian island of Sicily: where the murders happened, where the godfathers lived, where their victims are buried. From the sunbaked fishing villages of the Mediterranean to the darkest alleys of Palermo, western Sicily is the exotic backdrop for more than 100 meticulously researched tales of murder and mayhem, packed with 200 photographs of the actual locations. The book's historical sweep covers 150 years of revolutions, world wars, politics and popular culture--all inextricably bound to Cosa Nostra. They include the childhood home of gangster Lucky Luciano, the hideouts of the fearsome bosses of Corleone, the tombs of the "Robin Hood" bandit and the legendary dons, the roots of the American and Canadian mafias, the Allied landing, pistol-packing priests, political assassinations, playgrounds of the new Mafia and the anti-Mafia movement. Each site and association is depicted in sharp prose and revealing images, bringing many stories to English for the first time. Whether you're planning a trip to Sicily or sticking to the comfort of your armchair, this provocative book will take you closer to the Sicilian Mafia than you dared to think possible.

PLEASE NOTE: The "Look inside" Kindle preview (top left) blacks out the chapter titles, but your Kindle copy will show everything in full.

"Every stone you turn in Sicily reveals a violent history. With Russo's informative guidebook in hand, the traveler will no longer stroll innocently through its streets. Crammed with fascinating facts."

-- Clare Longrigg, author of Mafia Women and Boss of Bosses: How Bernardo Provenzano Saved the Mafia

"A seminal piece of work that manages to bridge the gap between John Dickie's Cosa Nostra and Lonely Planet Sicily."

-- Crozier Green, author of The Fratellanza Contract and Gladio Resurrection

"Full of curious little anecdotes and human details that really bring it to life and make it impossible to put down."

-- Daniel Kenyon, author of The Savage Heart of Palermo

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Written with the excitement and page-turning fascination of a good true-crime bestseller. --San Francisco Book Review  
This is a fun and exciting read one that will fascinate any reader interested in the history of organized crime. --San Francisco Book Review

Carl Russo is a San Francisco author who has written for the Oakland Tribune, indieWIRE and other publications. He was a radio producer and disc jockey at KUSF-FM for more than a decade. Russo fell in love with Sicily on his first trip to the island in 1999 and has returned many times since. In 2010, he began a blog, MafiaExposed.com, which became the basis for his book.

Carl Russo is staking his claim within the True Crime book industry with this unprecedented book on the Sicilian Mafia. Even for Sicilian Mafia book readers he'll bring you to places you have never heard before, write alluring stories about bosses you have never heard of before, and in one fell swoop he'll evoke emotions from deep inside of you telling of tragic innocent Mafia deaths. The author really took his time in researching the island; however, none of the stories are based in or around the region of Catania, Enna, or Siracusa. Carl Russo e bravo buy his book and after you can consider yourself an authority on the Sicilian Mafia.

Through beautiful photos and a lively narrative, the author takes you on a rollicking trip across western Sicily and Mafia history. It's fascinating to see photos of Mafia landmarks that I'd only imagined before, from a full-page shot of the Hotel des Palmes, the site of the Mafia conclave of 1957, to the boyhood home of Charles "Lucky" Luciano, the first I've ever seen in a book. The book also chronicles the untold history of ordinary people who stood up to Cosa Nostra, too. There are several moving photos of such tributes as the marble obelisk to Judge Giovanni Falcone (the assassinated prosecutor), and the shrine to Barabra Asta and her young sons (bystanders killed by a Mafia bomb on the road). This is a one-of-a-kind book: great photos, unique history, and lots of fun.

Russo produced one of the most original contributions to org crime literature. If you're a mob book beginner, then Russo's book provides a great introduction to the dark side of Sicily's history. But there's plenty to enjoy if you're a crime book veteran. For example, the author includes plenty of images and addresses for researchers. It's one thing to read about certain events and locations, but it's also important for researchers to visualize these episodes and identify specific sites. Overall, the travel guide is a great compliment piece to read alongside authors such as Claire Sterling, John Dickie, Alexander Stille, and Letizia Paoli.

Mr Russo puts himself right in the heart of sicily to give the reader the best feel of what is going on right on this beautiful island. He uncovers many of the hidden truths about the mafia and captures the best pictures in some of the most dangerous, hard to get to areas. Great read and wonderful writer.

Interesting read, Mr Russo jumps around,does not start from the beginning, time line, 1800, 1900, 2000.

ridiculous to suggest this as an itinerary for seeing Sicily

This is a stupid book and certainly not a travel guide of any kind. It just lists a bunch of confusing Italian names and "who killed who" and what model of car they drove. The addresses & tiny black and white photos of the apartment buildings and houses where these crimes, etc. occurred, look old and are probably torn down by now, even if you were motivated to try to find them. Do not waste your money.

This book could have two locations in a bookstore...part history part travel guide...Russo has constructed an absorbing historical guide to the 'non-existant mafia' crimes of murder in Sicily. Most of us will never have the luxury of a trip to Italy,but if you read this book you will be transported by his words. What gets me tho is that this island must be made of an exorbitant amount of commemorative markers and placques-Sicilians take a lot of pride in their history..So follow the trail starting over 100 years ago. You'll read about Joe Banannas Bonanno and Lucky Luciano...how Corleone is not just a movie family name, but is also a town called the Tombstone of Italy...and you'll read of the American connections- some surprising! As an added bonus there is a rough map and photos..thank you Mr. Russo...to aid in following the connections to these snippets/ stories.

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