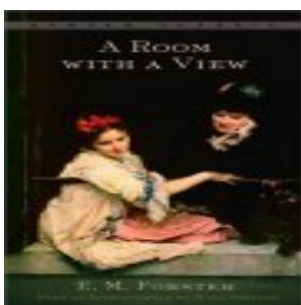
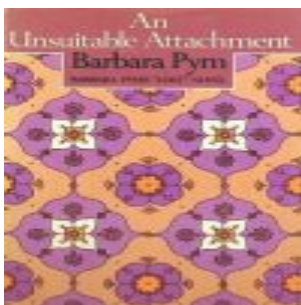
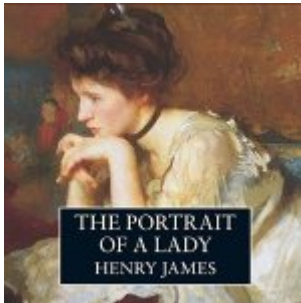
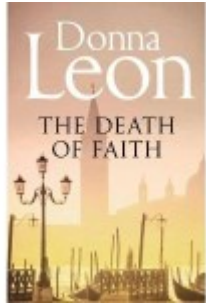
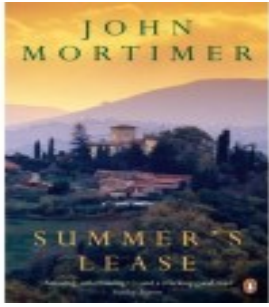


# Literary Flavours: Italian Book Week in Stockbridge



One of my favourite parts of *Brideshead Revisited* takes place in **Venice**, when Sebastian Flyte flings open the shutters of his father's *palazzo* to reveal the Grand Canal in all its glory. Romantic, nostalgic and no doubt slightly unrealistic even by 1920s standards, the scene panders to every tourist's idea of Italy – and we love it. The British have flocked to Italy for hundreds of years; from the delights of the **Grand Tour** to the joys of the city break, there's little we don't like about this most sensual of countries.





And when we can't go there ourselves, we read about it. From **EM Forster** (Florence) to **Donna Leon** (Venice) and **Henry James** (Rome) to **John Mortimer** (Chiantishire/Tuscany), Italy provides the backdrop to countless wonderful novels – even **Barbara Pym** sends her dowdy Anglican congregation off to Rome, where they swiftly locate **Babington's Tea Rooms**; 'their spirits were at once raised and depressed by the English-looking cakes, pots of jam and packets of tea in the showcases on the counter...The whole place suggested tea, and a good cup at that' (*An Unsuitable Attachment*).



**Flavours of Italy**, based in Stockbridge, organises specialist

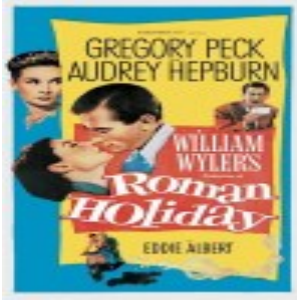
**cooking, painting, pilates and Italian language holidays** to Italy. To celebrate its own **Italian Book Week** (6th-12th July) Flavours is asking you to choose **your favourite Italian-related summer read**; a pop-up book corner has been set up in the office in Raeburn Place, and people are encouraged to come in, browse the books that the staff have come up with, chat about their own choices and vote for the winner. If you can't get into the shop, you can nominate your favourite book on the Flavours' [Facebook](#) page. Flavours' staff have also interviewed some of their own favourite writers; on the **Flavours blog** *Vroom with a View* author **Peter Moore** will talk about solo travel and what makes Italy so special, and further interviews and reviews will be posted throughout the week.



Everyone who votes and nominates will have their name entered into a draw to **win a book** from the shortlist.

So escape with **Lucy Honeychurch, Commissario Brunetti** or even the good people of **St Basil's, North Kensington**; share your favourites with Flavours, and have a fabulous Italian summer!





**Flavours** is at 67 Raeburn Place. Holidays start from £899 per person.

