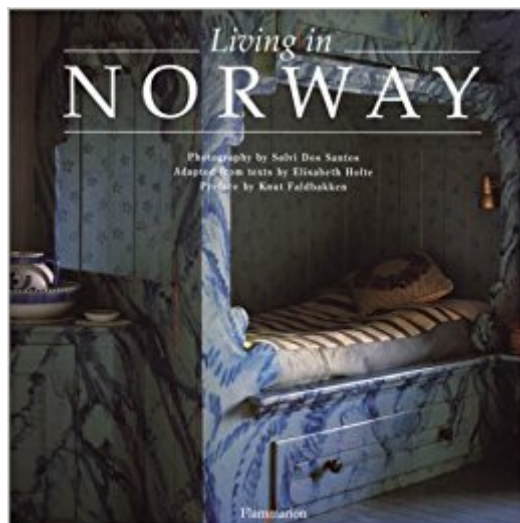


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Living In Norway



Synopsis

Life in Norway, based on tradition and simplicity, on quality and authenticity, parallels today's trends. Ecologically conscious, Norwegians are experts at living off the land's bounty and are envied by many other European countries. Increasingly numerous visitors travel north, and most of them choose Norway as their destination. Nature is so powerful here that it dictates the Norwegian way of life. This is why SÃfÂlvi Dos Santos and Elisabeth Holte have chosen the rhythm of the seasons to reveal the country's diversity and richness. We are invited into Norwegian homes at the most pleasant time of year and we discover the charming hotels, traditional restaurants, and delightful house-museums that are all listed in the Visitor's Guide at the end of this book. In the winter, residents unite in the warmth of farms located in the grand valleys at the interior of the country, which reveal the splendor of their rose-painting decorations, their traditional built-in beds, and their large ballrooms. Spring is celebrated all along the breath-taking western fjords covered with blossoming fruit trees and in white-painted manor houses. In summertime, Norwegians spread out to the southern coasts with their small houses built just next to the water's edge, or travel to the north of the Arctic Circle where the Midnight Sun lights up continuous outdoor life. Autumn brings Norwegians back to hunting pavilions nestled deep within the forests to the fireside, and to wild berry collecting. Edvard Grieg's voice mixes with those of Henrik Ibsen, Edvard Munch, Knut Hamsen, Sigrid Undset, Tarjei Vesaas, and Liv Ullmann to affirm the Norwegian's deep love for their homes and their regions. As Knut Faldbakken explains in his preface: "The art of that people, our original traditions, have always existed side by side with more sophisticated currents, demanded their due respect and flaunted their quality with a vitality and a self-awareness which is still found today in the countless villages and hamlets tucked away in remote corners of our country." These representatives of Norway's distinctive culture invite you to discover a fascinating country, considered to be the best kept secret in Europe. Stunning color photography and lively, insightful texts capture the real essence of this beautiful country. In this huge country of contrast and change, Norwegians bring the intimate lifestyle of their comfortable homes into harmony with Nature's majestic grandiosity in a natural and unpretentiously graceful way. For them, nothing counts as much as life in the fresh air and the warmth of their homes, the passage from one to the other constituting an exceptional lifestyle that this book invites you to discover. This is a lifestyle marked by a love for natural materials, by the genius of Viking carpenters, and by a powerful tradition that can be brilliantly allied with the contemporary. Colour reveals and illuminates the smallest decorative elements, it literally bursts from walls, furniture, panelling and objects, all of which are harmonized or contrasted with particular aesthetic talent in the houses presented to us here: Grieg's

and Munch's houses, Lofoten island's fisherman's cabins, and hunting pavilions--stopping places for royal families--homes of the descendants of great explorers, artisan's homes, and the country inns hidden deep in the valleys. These remarkable houses share a magnificent folk art tradition that distinguishes them from those of their Scandinavian neighbours. Living in Norway offers a privileged journey throughout this unique country. Two extremely talented Norwegians will be your guides: thanks to them, the visitor will no longer feel like a tourist, but like a native, and will discover with amazement the beauty and exoticism of this little-known country.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

On first glance this appears to be a coffee-table book consisting of 250 lovely photographs of Norwegian interiors emphasizing folk motifs. The rugged physical environment of the country is downplayed, and hardly a Norwegian is to be seen. But the accompanying text is substantial and revealing. It explains how these interiors reflect the history and the unique character of the Norwegian people. The arrangement is seasonal, and there is a concise "Visitor's Guide" in the appendix. This thoughtful and well-made book is a good value despite its price. Certainly all art libraries should consider its purchase, as should larger academic and public libraries. Norway will be of increasing interest because it hosts the Winter Olympics in 1994.- Harold M. Otness, Southern Oregon State Coll. Lib., Ashland
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SãfÂ_lvi Dos Santos conceived this book and is also responsible for its splendid photography. Born

in Oslo, she lived in most of Norway's different regions before moving to Paris. A photographer specializing in interior design, she has contributed to such prestigious magazines as Vogue Decoration, House & Garden, Architectural Digest, and Schöner Wohnen. In her remarkable photographs, taken especially for this book during different seasons over a two-year period, the country's extraordinary lights and colours, its transparent air and limpid waters, burst from the page. These photographs also highlight the decors and furnishings of daily life. Elisabeth Holte has been the diplomatic correspondent for the important Norwegian newspaper Aftenposten since 1970. She was the permanent correspondent for this newspaper for several years in New York and Paris, and has covered many stories in eastern and western Europe, Africa, the United States, and South America. She is currently a permanent correspondent for the Aftenposten in Stockholm, covering Sweden, Finland, and the Baltic countries. She has also contributed to prestigious interior design magazines such as Vogue Decoration and Architectural Digest.

Huge Scandihoovia fan, and this is one of the finest "coffee table books" ever published. It is THE BEST in my personal collection. Fabulous photography, great commentary (and who ever reads a coffee table book...?) and great view of the history and current life in Norge.

Great balance between history and contemporary era. Many ideas about what to do in Norway or to remember treasured locations. Photos are the best!

The book has lovely photos of Norway. Although used, the book was in perfect condition.

This book is a wonderful light reading material. Full of absolutely gorgeous pictures and insightful descriptions, it catches your attention from the beginning and keeps it until the end. It has beautiful examples of decoration and architecture and some details on Norwegian history. Very recommended

Beautiful photos. Damages packaging.

great book!

Gets the creative juices going! My happy book.

I was going on a trip to Norway, and I wanted a book with photographs of the people and the homes of Norway, not just the usual tourist destinations. I also hoped for an "insider's scoop" on places to go, interesting museums, and off-the-beaten-path towns. The book had information about these things to some extent, but many of the photographs were a disappointment to me because they were pictures of unusual items, rather than of the sorts of things that are in today's Norway homes. I also hoped for more info about contemporary design. This was a pretty specific request on my part, but I did find the book a little boring overall, even if I had only wanted a general view of living in Norway.

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