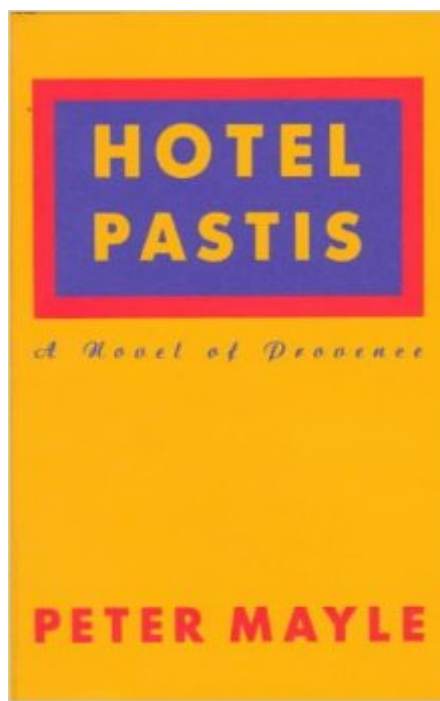


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Hotel Pastis: A Novel Of Provence



Synopsis

Having delighted millions of Americans with *A Year in Provence* and *Toujours Provence*, Peter Mayle treats us to a wonderfully entertaining novel of escape, romance and adventure. played in the landscape he has made so irresistible. Simon Shaw, a forty-two-year-old advertising tycoon, worn down by insatiable clients and a rapacious ex-wife, wants to get away from it all. On impulse he drives to the south of France. When an accident leaves him stranded in a small village in the Luberon, an enchanting Frenchwoman, who is between husbands, comes to his rescue and soon lures him into buying the local gendarmerie. Together they transform it into a little jewel of a hotel. And life seems idyllic. But at the same time, a crook, recently released from the Marseilles prison, is plotting to rob the bank in the nearby town. Paths cross. schemes go awry -- and through it all Peter Mayle delights us with the intrigues of the haut monde that descends on the Hotel Pastis and the machinations of the bad guys, as everything conspires to threaten the heaven on earth that Simon Shaw has envisioned.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (107 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #616,158 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Rural Life](#) #576 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > British & Irish > Contemporary](#) #1966 in [Books > Romance > Action & Adventure](#)

Customer Reviews

I'll begin this review by giving "Hotel Pastis" a total of SIX stars instead of the obligatory five. Stay with me and I'll explain why. Being such an incredible fan of Mr. Mayle's previous books on Provence I was slightly apprehensive about his delving into the world of fiction. Untested waters to be sure but I held my breath and waited for "Hotel Pastis" to appear at my local book store. When it finally arrived I, without hesitation, picked up my copy and that evening sat down... ready to be disappointed. Obviously, quite the opposite has occurred. Looking back over the past few years when

I first read this novel I actually have to laugh at my apprehensiveness (ummm... is that a word?). "Hotel Pastis" is, at least for me, one of the most enchanting, funny and in some small, strange way, romantic books I have read in many a year. Mr. Mayle simply makes you really care about the people that populate this book and you truly do want to see an "happy-ending"! The novel is written in an extremely fast-paced mode and moves along with the speed of sound! Never a dull moment! Without going into the plot of the novel, the main character Simon Shaw and his "man Friday" Ernest are both so cleverly drawn and fleshed out that I keep hoping for a sequel to this work. Especially Ernest, part valet, part confidant, part friend and qualified Rolls-Royce mechanic is simply so fascinating that his character alone is worthy of a book. Obviously, as in any Peter Mayle novel (and in real life) things don't always go as intended for our "heroes" and that is where the fun truly begins. This book simply has it all...

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