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Random House USA Inc, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 201 x 132 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Join the bestselling author of Ciao, America! on a lively tour of modern Italy that takes you behind the seductive face it puts on for visitors la bella figura and highlights its maddening, paradoxical true self You won t need luggage for this hypothetical and hilarious trip into the hearts and minds of Beppe Severgnini s fellow Italians. In fact, Beppe would prefer if you left behind the baggage his crafty and elegant countrymen have smuggled into your subconscious. To get to his Italia, you ll need to forget about your idealized notions of Italy. Although La Bella Figura will take you to legendary cities and scenic regions, your real destinations are the places where Italians are at their best, worst, and most authentic: The highway: in America, a red light has only one possible interpretation Stop! An Italian red light doesn t warn or order you as much as provide an invitation for reflection. The airport: where Italians prove that one of their virtues (an appreciation for beauty) is really a vice. Who cares if the beautiful girls hawking cell phones in airport kiosks stick you with an outdated model? That s the price of gazing upon perfection. The small town: which demonstrates the Italian genius for pleasant living: a congenial barber ... a well-stocked newsstand ... professionally made coffee and a proper pizza; bell towers we can recognize in the distance, and people with a kind word and a smile for everyone. The chaos of the roads, the anarchy of the office, the theatrical spirit of the hypermarkets, and garrulous train journeys; the sensory reassurance of a church and the importance of...

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