



The Villa

Nora Roberts

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Sophia Giambelli has never had to worry about competition. For three generations, the Giambelli wines have been renowned for their quality- from Napa Valley to Italy, and throughout the world. The pride of the Giambelli family, and a top PR executive, Sophia loves her job- and excels at it.

But things are about to change at Villa Giambelli. Tereza, the matriarch, has decreed that a merger will take place with the MacMillan family's winery- and Sophia will be taking a new role. As a savvy business-woman, she knows she has to be prepared for anything...but she isn't prepared for Tyler MacMillan. They've been ordered to work together very closely, to make the merger as smooth as possible. Sophia must teach Ty the finer points of marketing and promotion- and Ty, in turn, shows her how to get down and dirty, to use the sun, rain, and earth to coax the sweetest grapes from the vineyard. But as they toil together, both in and out of the fields, Sophia is torn between a powerful attraction and a professional rivalry. At the end of the season, the course of the company's future- and the legacy of the Villa- may take an entirely new direction. And when acts of sabotage threaten both the family business and the family itself, Sophia's quest will be not only for dominance, but survival....

The Villa Details

Date : Published March 19th 2001 by Berkley

ISBN :

Author : Nora Roberts

Format : Kindle Edition 431 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Fiction, Romantic Suspense, Contemporary, Mystery

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Rebecca says

This book was like a 80's soap opera, and I couldn't stop reading. The beginning is a little overwhelming with the background and casts, but once the storyline gets underway, I devoured it. Tyler, like all NR heroes is amazing. I also appreciate the role reversal of Sophia and Tyler. I continue to love all things NR.

Ari says

I was really itching for a solid romance novel with a good plot and good character and this delivered!!! It has everything! Italian family dramatics, shady business drama, murder!, family dramatics, two really good relationships that are developed and explored, a family where the women run things! I almost wanted more from Sophie/Tyler, because their UST was so good, that I wanted the same for RST, but that's honestly the smallest of personal quibbles I have. It was a really satisfying read. Also on the twists I was expecting to happen did so, but in a better way than expected that delighted me even more. A good read that'll probably stay in the comfort read pile.

Yvonne says

Good story.

steph says

I like this. A lot more then I thought I would. I usually try to avoid Nora Roberts because she's written so many and a lot of her books tend to be series/trilogies but I was recommended this one and as someone who has been to the vineyards of Napa Valley, I was much intrigued.

And this story was perfect. Before starting I didn't realize that Sophia and Tyler had known each other since they were kids, since their grandparents married 20 years ago. I didn't know that this story was going to have more then one love story, was going to be more then just wine, didn't know that there was going to be murder and mayhem with enough twists and turns to keep me intrigued. But mostly, I loved this book for the strong sense of family that runs through, of loyalty, of love for each other. The three generations of Giambelli women are very strong and sexy and loving and I adored that.

Vanessa says

It's very rare for me to find a Nora Roberts novel I don't like, but this is one. I didn't like the female lead character, Sophia, at all. Tyler was okay, but Sophia really grated on my nerves. I don't think she and I would ever have been friends in real life ... ;o)

Then there was Sophia's mother, Pilar, who remained a pale, flat character for most of the book. David was too pushy for my taste. He was good with his kids, but when he was with Pilar I just thought he behaved too aggressively.

Normally, characterization is one of Nora Robert's strong points but she somehow missed her mark with "The Villa" ... :o(

María says

1 de 5 estrellas.

Lo mejor: El entorno entre viñedos, paisajes de California y paisajes italianos.

Lo peor: A esta novela le sobran como 150 páginas. Es como ver un telefilm de antena 3 de los domingos pero de los que aburren. Al final tiene un pequeño punto de imprevisibilidad pero en general es super líneal, llena de tópicos, unos romances empalagosos y con muchos aires de telenovela venezolana.

El personaje que más me ha gustado: Por decir uno, digo René, es la mala pero es la que pone algo de intriga y emoción, gracias René por tus momentos e imperfecciones.

El personaje que menos me ha gustado: Tyler.... típico tipo de campo duro y sin nada interesante....

En definitiva, no lo recomiendo para nada...

Carmun says

Cumple perfectamente su función. Entretenido, ligero y ameno, por lo que es ideal para leer entre libros más densos.

Junkie for the Written Word says

So I got stuck in a library on a Girl Scout mission in a remote farming community this past week.

Now I'm not generally one to complain about being stuck in a library, but my job was to sit there and field questions for 3 hours from girls who were interested in joining Girl Scouts. GREAT! I know everything ever that needs knowing about Girl Scouts and I'm really going to entice these girls to join a troop!

Yeah, no girls showed up. And the library only had 5 books.

One of which was Nora Roberts "The Villa," so I grabbed it and started reading with very little expectation of great goodness.

The last Nora Roberts books I read some years ago was a trilogy about some neo-pagan witches who all meet devastatingly handsome men to fall in love with. Nora Roberts has obviously never been to a pagan festival. There's a reason for all the rampant lesbianism.

So I was surprised that the story was actually not that bad. It wasn't the best thing I've ever scanned through but it was entirely NOT horrible.

And there were no vampires.

Beth says

Yiiiiiiiikes. There's a *lot* of plot here, and a lot of craziness happening at the same time, and in a way I wish there were less, and that Tyler and Sophie got more time. This is engrossing - it really is a complete world - but I just didn't like that world as much as others Roberts has created.

Ivana Azap Feješ says

Still good one :)

Great descriptions, steamy love scenes and mystery...

Recommendations ;)

Wendy says

As a wine-lover with a sister who lives in northern California, I was naturally attracted to the Napa Valley setting of THE VILLA, my first from Nora Roberts. The merger between two winemaking families, Giambelli and MacMillan, seemed a smart and inevitable business move. How the players plan to work together and embrace this change is another issue. Sophia Giambelli and Tyler MacMillan have known each other since they were kids, their family's vineyards as the other's backyard. The formation of Giambelli-MacMillan Wines throws them both into each other's hair, work and hearts.

THE VILLA has triple-romance, conspiracy, lies and deception, murder, and, well ... wine! Everything a great story needs. Add a few twists and surprises ... never a dull moment. What one reader may see as a "slow-part," I saw as a wonderful flow of descriptive background and detail. The characters didn't need to be constantly involved for this marvelous story to captivate me. Roberts' writing style is superb. I could "see" the vineyards of Napa Valley and the streets of Venice. Three generations of well-developed characters interact beautifully throughout the story. Their actions and dialog made them unique and very real.

????π?? says

No se por donde empezar, me ha encantado, No quería terminarlo!!!

Una historia bien contada, que no solo se basa en un personaje concreto si no en varios, hace que tengas ganas de seguir leyendo para ver que sigue pasando.

Tiene momentos preciosos, otros que te dejan con la boca abierta como el final y un descubrimiento que no me esperaba para nada... Me enamoró del personaje masculino de Tyler y Maddy es muy tierna... Sophia es igual que su abuela Teresa que a pesar que parece muy recta y seca, cuando la abre la boca todo lo que dice tiene razón, Claudia y David me encantan y Theo junto a su hermana vaya dos, los cambios de ciudad le han venido muy bien

Erin says

I liked the book because it's not formula Roberts; it's a complicated story with a large cast and the plot unravels in a way that manages to not be too predictable. You know early on who the villain is, but the mystery is in his motivations and who he talks into being his accomplices. My only complaints: I didn't really like Sophia that much, which is a problem given she's the primary heroine. She was... abrasive. It's possible to be a strong woman without being bitchy, you know. I thought also that some of the wine-related imagery was a bit heavy-handed. Even the hero, Ty, has reddish streaks in his hair the same color as a good Cabernet. I get it, they all work at a vineyard, let's move on. Still, a quick, mostly enjoyable read.

Sandra says

Nora Roberts, me has decepcionado.

Me esperaba muchísimo más de Las viñas de Napa Valley, sobre todo porque me he acostumbrado a que todos los libros de Nora Roberts me encanten, que la sinopsis no pintaba nada mal y que el tema de los vinos me resulta interesante. Parecía que iba para una nota de 5, y sin embargo se ha quedado en un 1'5.

La primera parte de libro me encantó, de verdad que sí. Pero luego me aburría, porque el libro se centra mucho en la relación con Claudia y David y, sinceramente, su relación no me apetecía leerla. Yo quería a Ty y a Sophia y no sé si he sido yo o que, pero me dio la impresión que hay más capítulos de Claudia y David que de Tyler y Sophia.

Claudia, la madre de Sophia, es todo dulcura y amor y todas esas cosas. Al principio me caía genial, pero después... uf, es que no la he soportado nada. Cuando se introduce al personaje de David y este muestra interés en ella, Claudia lo rechaza una y otra vez por motivos como "Es que soy muy vieja para volver a tener una relación", "mi cuerpo no es atractivo", "uy, ¿cómo voy a tener sexo con él con mi edad? uy qué disparate" o "¡Pero si él es más joven que yo! (cuando ella solo le llevaba un par de años con él)" y así infinidad. Además, he encontrado insoportable su sentimiento retorcido por su "matrimonio" (si es que se puede llamar así). Es decir, Tony y ella están separados pero no divorciados, y cuando Tony le pide el matrimonio a ella le afecta mucho. Lo peor de todo es que Tony le ponía los cuernos desde que comenzó este "matrimonio" prácticamente. Y ella no sabe decir otra cosa que "30 años de matrimonio no se tira así como así". Y no he podido con eso. No. Punto.

Sobre Ty y Sophia... bueno, me gustan mucho, sobre todo Sophia. Es fuerte, independiente y no es la típica protagonista que tiene que apoyarse constantemente en su pareja porque sino no se siente realizada (o alguna cosa de esas). Aunque a veces sí que debería haberse apoyado más en Ty. Sin embargo, de Ty, ha habido ciertas cosas que no sé, no me han llegado a cerrar.

La abuela Teresa tampoco es que me haya enamorado. Iba con la idea que iba a ser la típica abuela amorosa que todo el mundo quiere y que es muy achuchable. Pero no. No sé. Por ejemplo, uno de sus sobrinos tiene hijos, y son de los revoltosos y mimados, ¿a los que nadie soporta pero que no les queda más remedio? Pues así son. En una de las comidas que tienen, la mujer esta no tiene otra que mandar a los niños con una niñera a un cuarto porque "no permitiría que sus nietos se sentaran con ellos porque son unos maleducados" y no sé qué más. Qué queréis que os diga, pero a mí eso me parece muy por la cara, por muy maleducados y llorones que sean, yo qué sé. Además, ¿y el contrato que le impone a Sophia y a Ty? Ya sé que sin él no habría libro, pero es que prácticamente los obliga. Así, por cojones o sino OS LO QUITO TODO. ¿HOLIIII?

Pero sin duda, lo que me ha hecho bajarle la nota de 2'5 a 1'5 ha sido el final. Sinceramente, ES QUE NO LO ENTIENDO NADA. (view spoiler)

En fin, Nora Roberts, espero que el próximo sea mejor osú.

Piyangie says

This is my only Nora Roberts read thus far. Since more of her works are part of a series, I wanted to try out a stand alone novel of hers.

The Villa is a story of three generation of strong women and the courageous struggle they go through to secure, advance and manage their flourishing family business.

Nora Roberts has a simple and easy writing style; her characters, both main and supporting are believable; and the plot was interesting enough. Although I could not say it is a great write, somehow it got on well with me.
