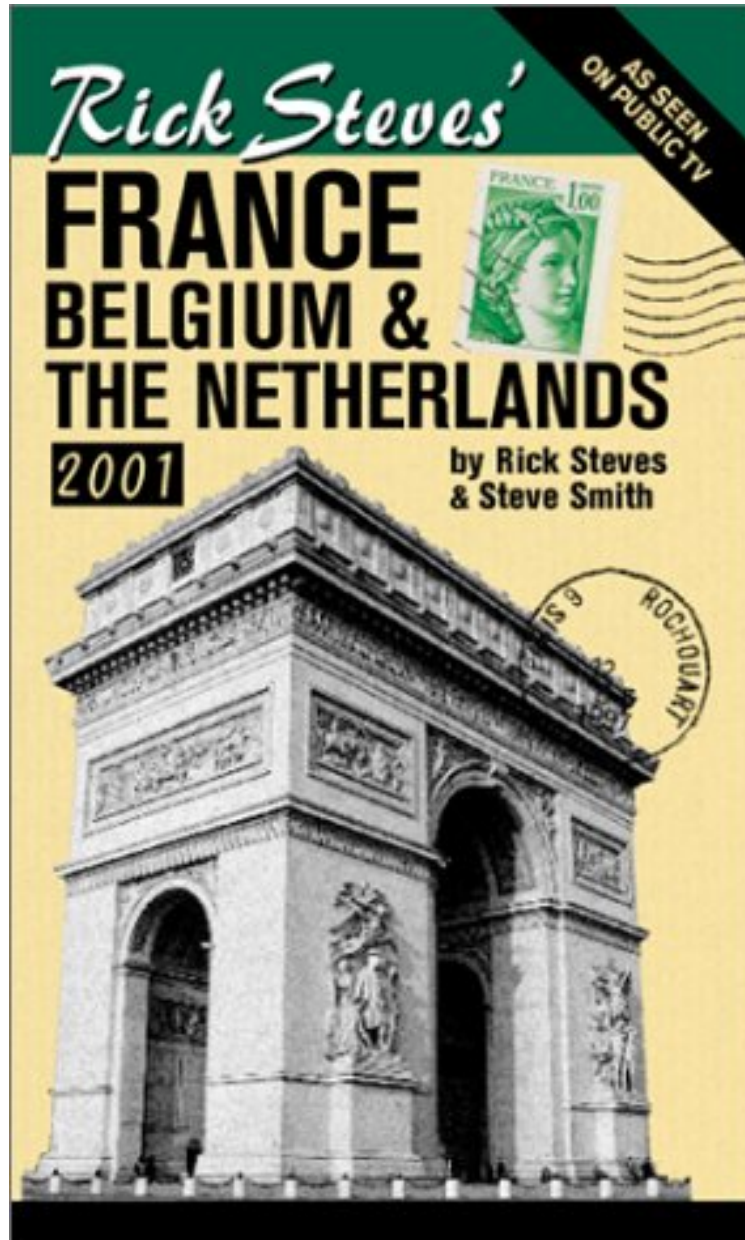


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## Rick Steves' France, Belgium and the Netherlands 2001

*Rick Steves, Steve Smith*

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**Rick Steves, Steve Smith : Rick Steves' France, Belgium and the Netherlands 2001** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rick Steves' France, Belgium and the Netherlands 2001:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Chuck SissonRick Steves never disappoints.36 of 36 people found the following review helpful. A Guidebook That We Put to the TestBy James ParisWe've just returned from a 2-1/2 week vacation in France, the Netherlands and Belgium -- and we used Rick Steves as our primary source of information for accommodations and sights (for restaurants, we mostly went our own way). All I can say is that this book worked out great. All the accommodations at which we stayed were Steves recommendations, and they had three things in common: They were comfortable, friendly, and reasonably priced. We paid \$60/night in Paris and Amboise; \$40/night in Bruges; and \$100/night in our "splurge" stop, Amsterdam. Info on accommodations has always been a Rick Steves specialty, and he has not failed us this trip. I am especially grateful for Rick's recommendation of the Zuider Zee Museum in Enkhuizen, Holland. Most other guidebooks either don't mention it or just mention it in passing, but it was one of the highlights of our trip. We also used the minibus service Steves recommends for the Chateaux of the Loire, and as a result had a memorable time. Not all guidebooks are good for everyone. Steves economizes by concentrating only on locales that he likes and only on accommodations in selected areas (only three neighborhoods in Paris, for example). If you must stay in Montmartre or Menilmontant in Paris; visit Montpellier and Clermont-Ferrand; and spend a week in Utrecht or Luxembourg -- then Steves is not for you. But if you are not the world's most seasoned travel and want to put together a memorable European vacation, then you could hardly do better.37 of 39 people found the following review helpful. Slim Pickin'...By CompLeeKateAlthough Rick Steves' France, Belgium the Netherlands 2000 was our primary guide during our 2 week vacation in France, we felt that he did not do justice to such a beautiful country like France. This book dedicates over 60 pages (out of 330) talking about Paris and leaves out beautiful places in the Alps and the Atlantic Coast. Also, this book has not lived up to the standards expected in the new millennium such as providing complimentary information regarding websites related to travel in France. I recommend using the Michelin Green Guide as a supplement, especially if you plan to drive around France. As always his recommended eateries, hotels and places to visit are always on the mark. The hand-drawn maps and helpful hints always came in handy. For example, following his advise about using alternative entry into the Louvre saved us over an hour of waiting in line. Otherwise, despite its shortcomings, this book still is my top choice, especially if you intend visiting the touristy-most-visited places in France.

-- Covers Paris, the Loire Valley, Provence, Brussels, and Amsterdam