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## **Rick Steves' France: Belgium the Netherlands 1997 (Annual)**

*Rick Steves, Steve Smith*

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**Rick Steves, Steve Smith : Rick Steves' France: Belgium the Netherlands 1997 (Annual)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rick Steves' France: Belgium the Netherlands 1997 (Annual):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. BEST travel writer!By CustomerRick Steves writes the best travel books for those wanting a more local experience. He is able to provide a lot of useful and practical information along with anecdotes and humor. You can really tell that he and his writing team are true professionals who are dedicated to helping others travel well. My husband and I have been using his books for European travel for the last ten years, and we've tried other books as well. We still think his books are the best! One small thing is that we usually don't like his hotel recommendations-they're more for the budget traveler. They're always clean and safe, but we use Trip Advisor more for hotel booking now. Buy his books for the next trip you go on! You won't be disappointed!6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Not His FaultBy Miami BobToo many travel books are confined to the average tourist who is compelled to see the "must see" sites. Steves, who numerous travels to France make him a walking encyclopedia of this terrain, is compelled to dedicate too much of his book to Paris and other touristic classics.Not until you delve into the pages of lesser known places does Steves deliver to his readers what many others cannot. But, even then the reduction of pages and substantial dedication of the others make this less through than you may wish.To the publisher, I would recommend that a new book called "Unknown France" be written by this author about lesser known places like beautiful Annecy, high hilling Auch, bay enchanting La Rochelle or Epernay.Some of my friends told me, after I returned, that they never had a good meal in Paris. I never had a bad meal outside of Paris -- get the

hint? The villages and lesser cities are not only more charming than the New-York-like impersonal multicultural unembracing Paris, but they depict the France which the country would be more proud to allow portray the national norm of this country glazed with adorable centuries-old stone structures atop rolling hills. In spite of all this, I followed one Stevesism: do not take too many pounds of travel books with. In yesteryear, he would recommend to tear out the important pages in order to lighten your load. This is the 21st century -- so I brought my Kindle version with a few other competitors' copies (free as they came from the library) and carried those few extra pieces of sage information about the many cathedrals encountered (people Notre Dame has many competitors -- maybe better and certainly less crowded -- in the lesser towns like Chartres, Auch, Strasbourg, or Besancon). If Steves could write more about the lesser known, I would hop onto that publication. And, I would hop quickly because the lesser known would become more known because of his strong following. 25 of 26 people found the following review helpful. All you need to travel is this book! By Nicole I have used Rick Steves' books in Italy and in France, and cannot recommend them highly enough. He breaks down what you should see based on the amount of time you have to spend, the best ways to avoid huge crowds, how to get things like museum passes and train tickets ahead of time to avoid long lines and higher fees, and provides his own do-it-yourself tours so that you don't have to pay through the nose for tour guides abroad. The level of valuable information and detail found in this book about anywhere you would ever want to go in France (including an outstanding section on Paris, no need to buy the Paris book separately) is priceless and makes you a much more prepared traveler. The cost of the book is nothing compared to the money saved by the tricks of the trade he provides and the time saved waiting in lines. If you're going to France, you NEED this book!

Updated and expanded, this guide directs travelers to charming and affordable restaurants and lodgings from Amsterdam to Arles. 33 maps, charts, tables.

France-bound fans of Rick Steves will be sure to tuck into their packs the updated version of his guide to France, Belgium and The Netherlands. The latter two countries, however, only make cameo appearances in the book in case travelers have some extra days to spare for sidetrips outside France. In his typical ebullient and knowledgeable manner, Rick describes what, in his opinion, are the best sights and activities for budget-minded travelers. Rick's descriptions are so thorough and clear, making it easy for his readers to retrace his footsteps and get the value-packed vacation he's planned for them. Note that the book's maps only provide general orientation; most travelers will want to obtain more detailed maps at the destination of interest. Rick Steve's claim to have eliminated unnecessary data by choosing the best from countless alternatives (thus producing a "skinnier" guidebook than those of competitors) is valid, but he might want to go a step further and convince his publisher to use less bulky paper and have an even lighter book to lug around as well. -- Joan Peterson, reviewer. -- Midwest Book