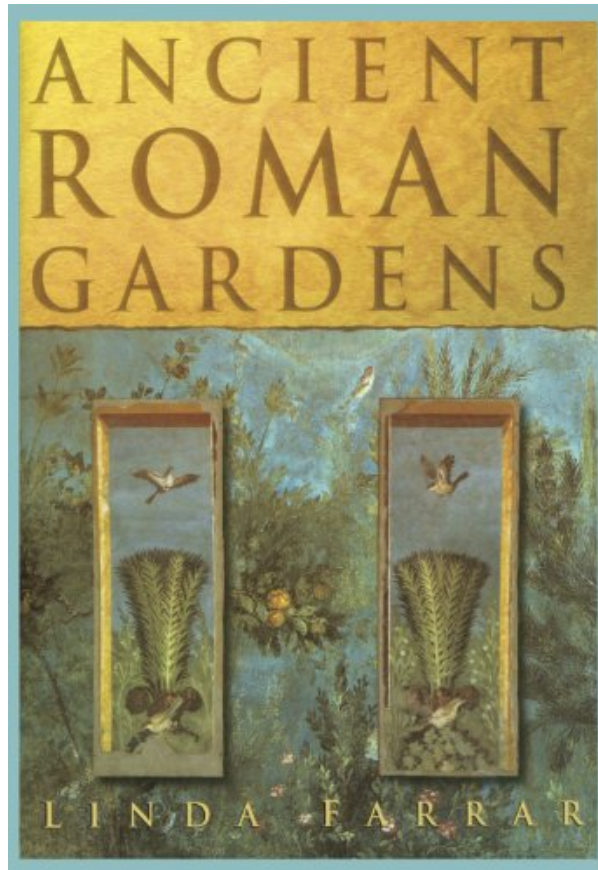
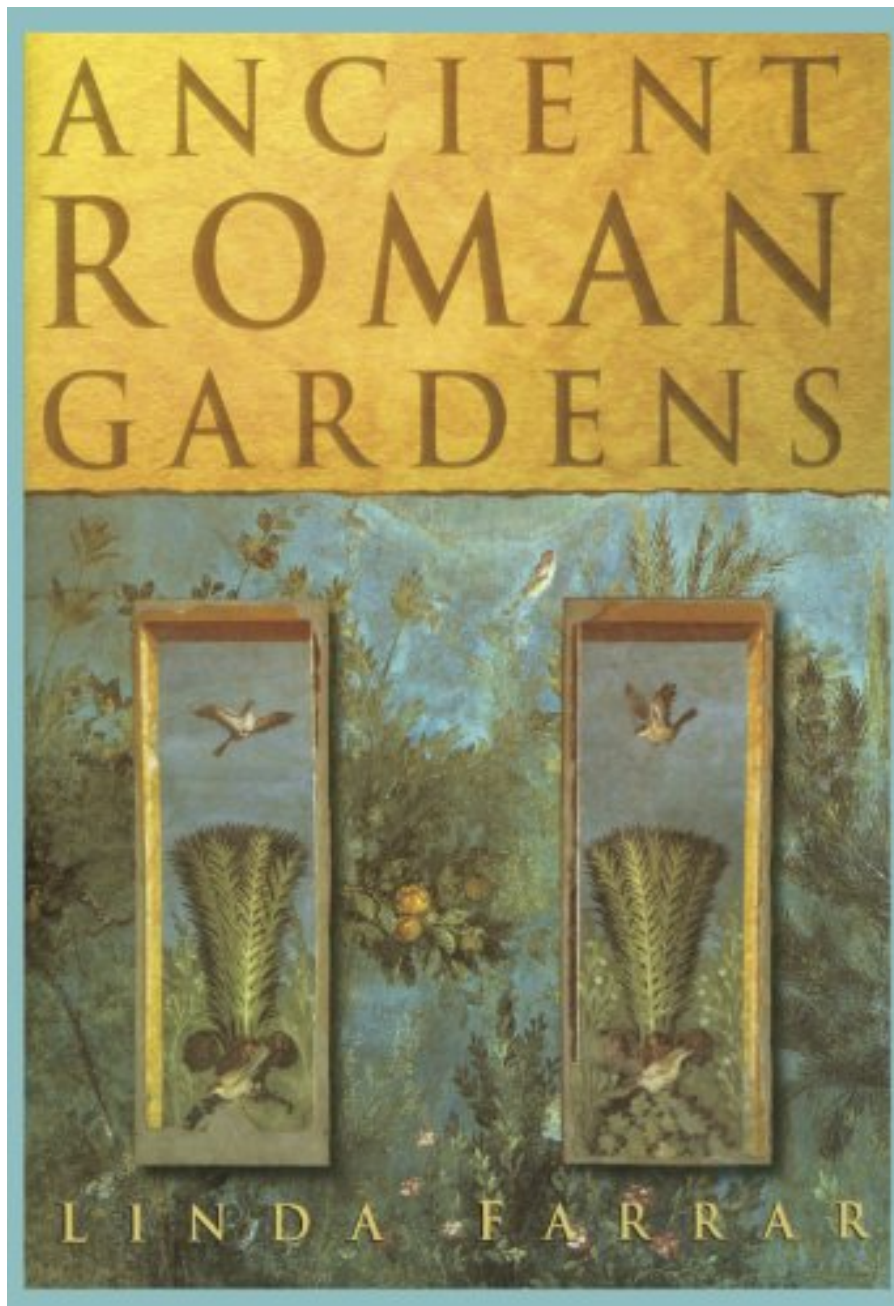


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This book offers a fascinating new dimension to the history of Roman society and of gardening and horticulture. The author, a classicist and archaeology with a special interest in gardening and garden history, traces the development of Roman gardens from their humble origins as vegetable patches to the sophisticated landscapes of the rich and famous at the height of the Empire. This fully illustrated study features evidence from gardens in Italy and from archaeological sites throughout the countryside with information on literature, frescoes, mosaics, sculptures and architecture to provide a vivid picture of the rich variety of Roman gardens, their common plants and exotic trees and flowers, their splendid arbors, and fanciful sculptures and mosaics. The habits of Roman gardeners, their tools and horticultural techniques and landscape designs complete this classical gardening tour of ancient Rome. Linda Farrar gives talks and leads study tours based around Roman civilisation. She lives in Warwickshire.

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Ancient Roman Gardens

By William Prueter

Linda Farrar has produced a gem. This book shows with care, sensitivity and scholarly love what made a Roman garden. She discusses the plants found in the garden but also writes with great skill how the Romans situated statues in the garden. Cicero, a famous Roman politician and writer, mentions in one of his letters how beautifully vines draped over the arms of statues in his brother's garden. Statues were not just placed in the garden but immersed in it; these lived in it. Often pools were designed to reflect the image of a nearby statue and its attendant plants. She also discusses other art work found in Roman gardens. In her efforts to give a feel for the garden she discusses its use: for discussion, parties, meals, play, family work. She discusses what these plants and statues meant to Romans. It was in this book that I learned how much Romans loved nature and how religious they were and how much they were devoted to the beauty of nature around them. Plants provided food, interest and drew in large numbers of birds, bees and butterflies. Roman gardens truly hummed. Linda Farrar's love of the Romans and their gardens flourishes on every page. Any one intending to visit Italy or Pompeii would profit from reading this book. At the end of her book she has excellent suggestions for creating one's own Roman garden.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Must have!

By Stikki

My interest in ancient Roman gardens was sparked by a class I took on ancient Rome. This book was VERY

well researched and organized, and offers incredible details about every aspect of the gardens. I highly recommend it!

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