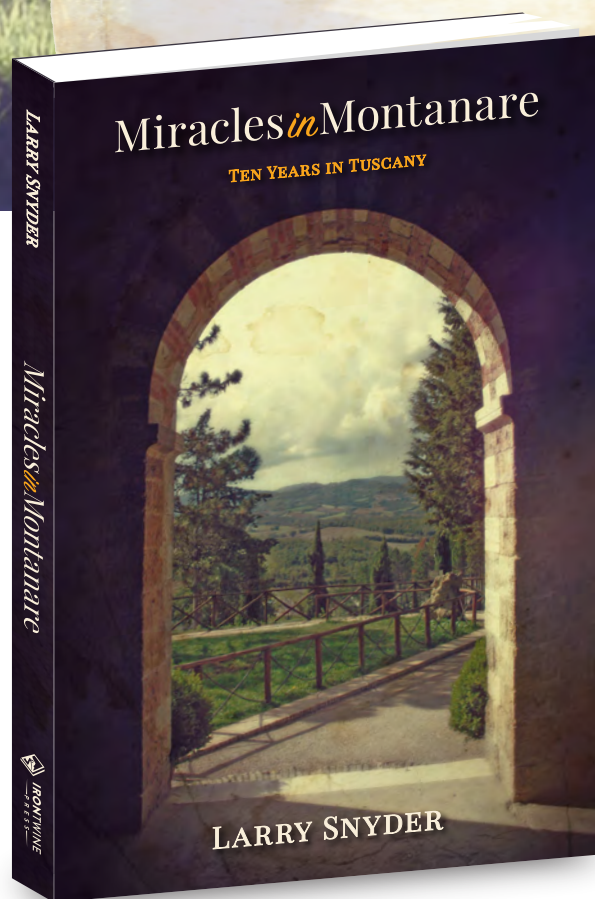


P icture a tiny village, the smallest place you've ever been, a place half way around the world. Tuscany! Inhabited by families whose roots run a dozen generations deep. You pull up stakes, quit your job, and move to that ancient place for a year. No one speaks your language and you don't speak theirs. Now imagine that despite the language barrier, these people become your dearest friends, an extension of your own family that you return to year after year.

A chance meeting over a shared connection to Italy brought Larry and Jill together. Within months, they suspended their careers, secured visas, and moved to the tiny hamlet of Montanare, Italy. A series of life changing miracles commenced. Embraced by villagers Primo, Francesca, Piero, Rosy, Amedeo and a tapestry of others, Larry and Jill discovered a new language, participated in cherished customs, and became attached to the land that provided each evening's dinner. Ultimately, this digitally driven American couple learned a new human experience that fostered love, whole friendship, family, and spiritual enrichment. This is the experience Larry Snyder chronicles in *Miracles in Montanare: Ten Years in Tuscany*.

Photography by Larry Snyder

TENYEARSINTUSCANY.COM



Copyright © 2016 Larry Snyder, Washington, USA. All rights reserved.

## Miracles in Montanare

BY LARRY SNYDER

Published by Iron Twine Press



- 160 Pages, Full-color
- 70# Text Opaque White Paper
- 27 Full Page, Full-color Vintage Photos
- Full-color Cover, 111# Gloss White Coverstock, Soft Touch Aqueous
- 6"x9", Perfect Bound, Printed in the USA
- \$25.00 USD
- ISBN 978-0-9970600-0-3

## Preface

Forty years ago, my grandfather told me above anything else in life, including wealth, fame or status in the community, the most important things you'll ever treasure are your friendships. Little did I know at the time, on the other side of the earth awaited a group of friendships, a human experience, that has created most of who I am today and most likely will always be.

The title of this work is no casual choice. *Miracles in Montanare: Ten Years in Tuscany* recounts a decade of learned lessons in love, vulnerability, and passion. Without a shared language, similar family traditions, or understanding of cultural norms, Jill and I took a chance. It paid off in ways no one, including ourselves, would ever have thought possible. This is a small collection of our favorite stories and although they don't follow a typical timeline, my hope is each one will provide a window into our unique experiences living on foreign soil.

This is our story. I hope it engages your imagination and fires a desire to make a similar plan. Living outside the confines of our comfortable, digitally-connected, over-committed American life is not only refreshing but it might save your life...

## HOW TO ORDER!

Buy the book at **TenYearsinTuscany.com**

Discounts are available for multiple copies.  
Please contact Iron Twine Press at [IronTwinePress.com](http://IronTwinePress.com)  
for wholesale ordering information.

Additional information about the author on the back.

Author's Bio  
**LARRY  
SNYDER**

Having made almost 20 trips across the Atlantic to experience Le Dolce Vita, Larry Snyder has an in depth love affair with everything Italian. After three academic tours including a summer in Rome dodging fast moving Fiats, another summer attempting the impossible at the Fuji Studio in Florence, and one final study abroad tracing the footsteps of Leonardo and Galileo, Larry Snyder has settled into a perfect spot under a large olive tree on the Tuscany, Umbria border. Destined to be ordained an Italian by association, courtesy of dozens of friends collected along the way, Larry spends much less time in museums and many more days chasing daughter Daniela around the pool at Ca' D Maestro in Montanare. Enjoy.

## Q&A

This book recounts your travels to and around Tuscany, and yet you have said it is more truly a love story than a travel story. Explain what you mean by that.

On the very first night in Montanare, a woman named Francesca knocked on our door with fresh focaccia from her outdoor wood oven. Although we couldn't communicate with words, it quickly became clear that we could easily communicate gestures of love and care. The days that followed found fresh cut vegetables, bottles of excellent wine, and large chunks of Parmigiano-Reggiano next to our door. Each came from different villagers wanting to share what they had to make us feel part of their community. These acts of kindness have made us spend part of everyday considering what we can do to be better neighbors and friends on native soil.

The title of the book - *Miracles in Montanare* - is interesting. What miracles does it refer to?

Our daughter Daniela is the absolute miracle of Montanare; we were not expecting her to come to us. We think our time in Italy is the reason she did. But there are so many more. The patience our Italian friends give us with their language is a miracle. The fact that they've let us into nearly every aspect of their daily lives is a miracle. Knowing that a community of people loves us and lets us love them when we don't even use the same words, that is a miracle.

What do you want readers to take away from the stories you share in this book?

The dozens of friends we've made in Italy, especially those in Montanare draw us back again and again. Not a day goes by that Jill, Daniela, and I don't acknowledge how fortunate we feel to have such a unique bond to a set of incredibly generous and forgiving souls on the other side of the world. Some of our most treasured family memories have taken place on the beautiful land that surrounds Ca' D Maestro, our Italian home away from home, in that tiny village of just 150 people. Those are the experiences at the heart of these stories. I hope readers will enjoy my stories, but I hope they will also be inspired to go make their own stories. I want them to see what can happen when you overcome inhibitions or uncertainty and follow your curiosity to enthusiastically discover another way of life. To take chances and travel as far off the beaten path as possible. To realize most of the good in travel is found in people wanting to share what is unique to them and most of the people you meet in travel are good, open-hearted, just as curious about you and willing to find a way to communicate even when you don't share a common verbal language.

**TenYearsinTuscany.com**

Books | Portfolio/Prints | Events | About the Author  
Submit Reviews and More!

*Photography by Larry Snyder*

Copyright © 2016 Larry Snyder, Washington, USA. All rights reserved.

