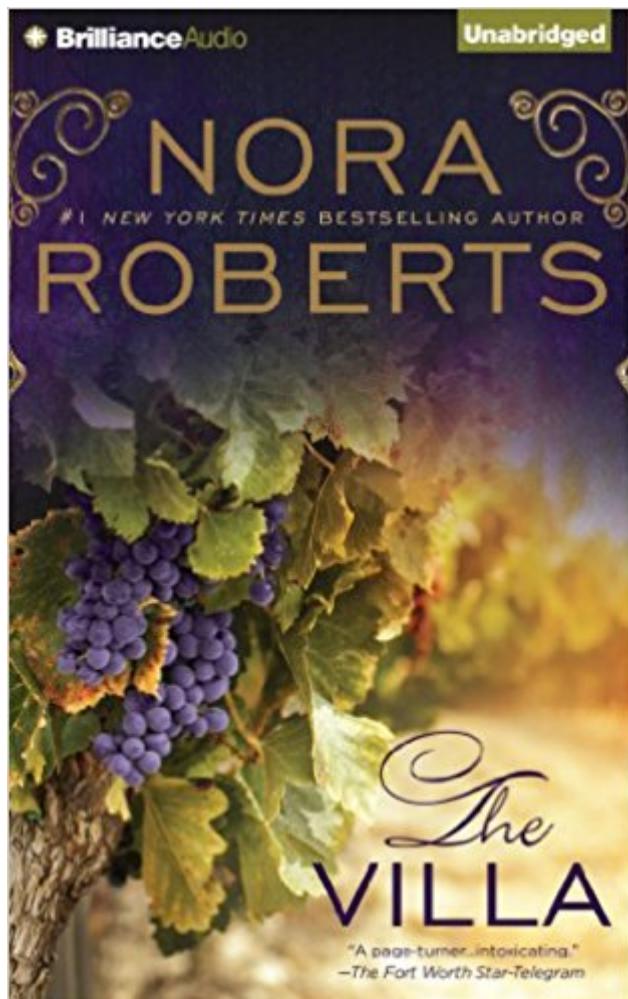


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# The Villa



## Synopsis

The vineyards of Napa Valley provide a lush backdrop for this sweeping epic from the #1 New York Times bestselling author. PR executive Sophia Giambelli loves her job and has never worried about competition. For three generations, her family's wines have been world-renowned for their quality. But things are about to change at Villa Giambelli. Tereza, the matriarch, has announced a merger with the MacMillan family's winery—and Sophia will be assuming a new role. As a savvy businesswoman, she knows she must be prepared for anything—but she isn't prepared for Tyler MacMillan. They've been ordered to work together very closely, to facilitate the merger. Sophia must teach Ty the finer points of marketing—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. 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 also for survival.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Set in beautiful Napa Valley, California, Nora Roberts's latest novel portrays a rich world of family-owned wineries, complete with enough romance, sophisticated business intrigue, betrayal, and murder to cow the Medicis of Florence. The Villa focuses on the merger of two prominent

winemaking families, the Giambellis and MacMillans, and the incendiary combination of the two upcoming leaders of those dynasties, Sophia Giambelli and Tyler MacMillan. Tyler is the manager of the MacMillan vines and the distilling process, a job that suits his frank and no-frills personality. Creative and flashy, Sophia is head of Giambelli's public relations, and her job has been to put the best spin on whatever her family business produces--hard to do when the merger requires that she and Tyler switch jobs, and particularly hard to do when her own heart seems to spin out of control whenever they're together. Soon after the merger goes through, Tyler and Sophia learn that they have bigger problems than their conflicting work styles. Tony Avano, a Giambelli executive and Sophia's father, is murdered, and threats surface against the Giambelli women. As a quiet woman, Sophia's mother, Pilar, has made few enemies, except for Tony's new wife, Rene. The matriarch of the family--known simply as La Signora--may have knocked some rivals aside as she clawed her way to the top, but few would have reason to threaten her now. When poison is discovered in Giambelli wine, Sophia and Tyler learn the killer is much closer than they thought. In description, dialogue, and plot, Roberts's talent and control are as fine as ever. But while the relationship between Pilar and David, the new COO, feels complex and mature, Sophia and Tyler's romance can at times feel slightly forced. As Roberts explains repeatedly, Sophia approaches sex "as a man does," which apparently means with no strings attached. And while that does tend to take the "romance" out of the romance to some extent, the positive aspects to be found in *The Villa* outweigh this flaw, ensuring another hit for the talented and prolific Roberts. --Nancy R.E. O'Brien --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Another novel rich in emotion and rife with conflict from the prolific Roberts (From the Heart; Carolina Moon etc.), this sweeping saga of Northern California wine-making steeps the reader in a heady mix of sex, scandal and the excesses of the supremely wealthy. Sophia Giambelli, sophisticated head of marketing for the family-run Napa Valley winery, is the heiress to the Giambelli empire. She's often compared to her grandmother Tereza, La Signora, who still runs the business. The Giambelli holdings include the 100-year-old Castello di Giambelli in Venice, Italy; Villa Giambelli, operating in the Napa Valley for 64 years; and nearby MacMillan, a 92-year-old firm added to the family holdings when La Signora married Eli MacMillan. The wineries have always operated independently, but now La Signora announces that she wishes to merge all three, occasioning a major restructuring of responsibilities. She orders Sophia to replace Tyler MacMillan, Eli's grandson, and become the wine maker for both families' vineyards. The monosyllabic Tyler will spearhead marketing for the new joint venture. Laying the groundwork for heated fireworks, Sophia

and Tyler fight not only each other but also a corporate saboteur who's being fed inside information. Dramatic personal confrontations are exacerbated by La Signora's designation of a new CEO, David Cutter, the only non-Giambelli to hold a position of power. Cutter brings his two teenage children with him to live in the winery guesthouse and immediately falls in love with Sophia's newly divorced mother, Pilar. Other juicy subplots involve manipulative mistresses, dilettante husbands and emotional Italian wives. As usual, Roberts provides plenty of intriguing background information, this time on wine making, and snappy dialogue. (Mar.) Forecast: Villains are easily discerned and suspense is at a minimum in this latest Roberts, but aggressive, savvy female protagonists should prove attractive to readers and enhance word of mouth. Overall, The Villa is vintage Roberts, a grand cru label for the bestseller lists; in expectation, the publisher is planning a first printing of 500,000. Literary Guild main selection; author tour. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I absolutely loved this book. The book was well written and you were always guessing who was going to be the character that was not in favor. It had just enough violence and sexual content in it to keep your interest in line and you couldn't figure out the end of the story. This was a bittersweet story - you wanted it to end but you didn't want it to end. The characters were well written. I always look forward to the next Nora Roberts novel and this one did not disappoint!

I hadn't read Nora Roberts before...probably the only woman in America who hadn't. I was introduced to this novel by a man who was my seatmate on my way to vacation. I was intrigued by his recommendation so I ordered the book on . I guess I am not a fan of formula romance novels. I found the wine growing in the story line interesting but this book was definitely not a page turner.

I liked this book but not as much as some other Nora Roberts books. I especially liked the David-Pilar relationship, the older woman finding a love, dealing with kids who come to see they need her...That was sweet.Overall, This is the story of three women and a family winery undergoing changes. Lots of characters here and twists and turns. I had figured out who had to be the bad guy but the ending was a surprise. A nice long book for travel.

A little mystery and suspense with 2 romance stories. I love that Pilar got to find her true love and the romance wasn't just about younger people in their 20's. I was shocked by who the murderer was! A very good read.

I started reading The Villa because there was a copy of it at the house where we were vacationing this Summer. I didn't want to take it from their library, but I did want to continue reading it, so I downloaded a copy when we got home. I've since learned that this author has written a bunch of books. I'll probably read another at some point. This one is an easy, pleasurable, don't have to think very much kind of read. It gets a little to "Romance Novel -ish" for me, but I enjoyed it none the less.

Nora Roberts is one of my all time favorite authors, but this one just didn't do anything for me. I found it hard to get into the story. I think there were too many characters and too many different things going on. I wound up skimming through parts of it in an effort to finish it. It's a rare thing for me to not be able to get into one of her books, but it just didn't happen with this one.

I love this book! Really a fun read as so many books by Nora Roberts are. The characters are well drawn & appealing and even though the plot is predictable, I enjoyed learning about wine production. As is often the case with books by Roberts, her descriptions of settings are vivid & make me want to visit the location.

As is her style, Roberts weaves a very good mystery with details after details surrounding main character's occupation - in this case the wine business! I did not see the unsuspected villain coming - WOW!

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