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The Grand Tour

Destination Italy

Ariane van Suchtelen

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- Explores the cultural phenomenon of the Grand Tour through the lens of British aristocracy
- Features treasures collected from Italy now housed in Holkham Hall, Burghley House, and Woburn Abbey
- Combines art history, travel narrative, and heritage studies
- Richly illustrated with artworks, maps, and historical documents
- Appeals to readers interested in travel, history, aristocratic life, and classical art
- Published to accompany an exhibition at Museum The Mauritshuis (The Hague, The Netherlands) from September 18, 2025

Travel today is fast, comfortable, and accessible to many. But between the 17th and early 19th centuries, it was a privilege reserved for the elite. Young British aristocrats would embark on a Grand Tour as the final stage of their education. Italy was the highlight of this cultural journey, with visits to Rome, Florence, Venice, and Mount Vesuvius. Along the way, they admired art and architecture, forged connections, and refined their taste—often returning home with artworks and souvenirs to adorn their country estates.

It wasn't just young men who traveled; entire families journeyed across Europe in grand entourages. What inspired them to set out, which routes did they take, and what treasures did they bring back?

This book explores those journeys and presents a remarkable selection of artworks brought home from three of England's finest stately homes: Holkham Hall, Burghley House, and Woburn Abbey.

Ariane van Suchtelen is a Curator at Museum The Mauritshuis, The Hague.







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