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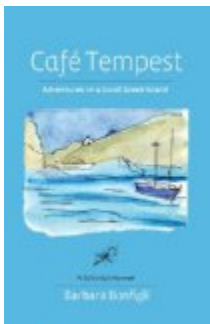


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Thailand Travel Guide Reviews [Cafe Tempest: Adventures on a Small Greek Island](#) online!

Author: Thailand's Travel Guide Reviewers

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Product Description

Café Tempest: Adventures on a Small Greek Island is a witty, evocative, beautifully written novel that puts you right in the heart of Greek island life. It's so alive with the sights and smells and tastes and characters of Greece that you can pick it up and start your Mediterranean vacation on page one. On a deeper level, the book is filled with the kinds of observations, reflections, and arc of self-discovery that make Eat, Pray, Love so compelling.

5 Responses to “Cafe Tempest: Adventures on a Small Greek Island”

Barbara's vivid descriptions (“the moon rises late from the sea, a fiery penny that quickly turns to silver as it climbs steeply into a black star-net night”) and wry wit (Tula has just watered the espadrilles I left on the terrace), draw you into her island world and hold you to the last page. She creates characters that feel like dear friends....in a place you won't ever want to leave.

Rating: 4 / 5 [M. Goodwin](#)

Cafe Tempest has a grand joy of life and an open-hearted sense of adventure that are exhilarating. Its understated wit, laugh-out-loud humor, vivid language, and moments of poetry kept me turning pages at a fast clip. If you are the kind of reader who likes to enjoy every page you will love this book.

Rating: 5 / 5 [Michele Joan Kohn](#)

Café Tempest: Adventures on a Small Greek Island. A fictional memoir that does for Greece what A Year in Provence did for France.

What is it about Greece that makes it so exotic, so romantic, so tantalizing that it's right at the top of everybody's bucket list – the one foreign land they're longing to visit? Our dreams are made on Never on Sunday, Zorba the Greek, and more recently My Big Fat Greek Wedding and Mama Mia.

Café Tempest: Adventures on a Small Greek Island is a witty, evocative, beautifully written novel that puts you right in the heart of Greek island life. It's so alive with the sights and smells and tastes and characters of Greece that you can pick it up and start your Mediterranean vacation on page one. On a deeper level, the book is filled with the kinds of observations, reflections, and arc of self-discovery that make Eat, Pray, Love so compelling.

"Welcome to Pharos. Laugh and dance in the hammock—not the cradle—of Western civilization," says author, lyricist, and theatrical producer Barbara Bonfigli. "I've been falling in love with Greece since I was old enough to drink retsina. But if Sarah hadn't captured my imagination you'd never know how I feel about friendship, feta, and the abundance of grace that turns friends into lovers and fishermen into kings."

Synopsis:

When Sarah, a thirty-something American theatrical producer, is asked to direct the locals in their summer show, she picks Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*. What follows is a hilarious adventure in casting, rehearsing, and consuming. Her neighbors are excited about acting but delirious about eating. Their rehearsals in a deconsecrated church become a feast in four acts.

Armed with a sizzling wit, a dangerously limited Greek vocabulary, and a pitch-perfect ear for drama, Sarah navigates the major egos and minor storms of a cab driver Caliban, a postmaster Prospero, and a host of fishermen dukes and knaves.

When she falls in love, there are even trickier seas to navigate. Her own offstage romance provides an exhilarating, unpredictable counterpoint to Shakespeare's story of magic, intrigue, and the power of love.

People are saying.....

An amusing and enchanting novel. She writes with an arch sense of humor and an appreciation of the absurd" —Pasatiempo weekly arts & events magazine inside the New Mexican daily paper

It's a triumph! The cleverness of the dialogue, the clear differentiation of each character's voice, the humor, the reader's emotional connection to the peaks and valleys of Sarah's feelings... Café Tempest brings the reader into a cast of characters that you don't want to leave, and into a world that you don't want to end. —Gordon Radley, former President Lucasfilm Ltd

Barbara Bonfigli's fictional memoir is why we read books. It's a witty and wise look at love, friendship and baklava. If you can't make it to Greece this summer, don't worry. Crack open a bottle of retsina...and spend some delicious hours at 'Café Tempest'. It's the next best thing to being there! — Cheryl Lavin, Chicago Sun-Times syndicated columnist, Tales from the Front

Café Tempest is an original, seductive, witty tale of one magical summer on a tiny Greek island. Like the islands themselves, the story is warm and welcoming. I found myself laughing out loud. — Christie Hefner

Café Tempest: Eat (More), Pray (More), Love (More)! In Café Tempest, Barbara Bonfigli's fabulous first novel, we are invited to share a concentrated experience of food, spirit and love on an intimate Greek island. Your heart will race with the tempestuousness of love, your mouth will water from her savory descriptions of zucchini fritters and baklava (recipes included), and you'll discover a remarkable depth of spiritual wisdom, and humor that shines through every page.

Bonfigli plays with the best elements of Elizabeth Gilbert (Eat, Pray, Love) and Peter Mayle (A Year in Provence) and combines them with ingredients from Nikos Kazantzakis (Zorba the Greek) and Shakespeare (The Tempest) to bring us a uniquely sumptuous literary feast. Opa! — Michael Gelb, author of How to Think Like Leonardo da Vinci

Café Tempest is Barbara Bonfigli's first novel. [...].

The book includes luminous illustrations by Roman artist Gaia Franchetti and seven favorite Greek recipes, re-created and embellished by chef Ana Espinosa.

Rating: 5 / 5 [GP](#)

Life on a typical Greek island with larger than life characters, riotous scenes (feels like a movie) and a full table of local delicacies. This is a trip not to be missed. Book it now.

Rating: 5 / 5 [Catherine MacDonald](#)

I have several friends from Greece and some other friends who have traveled to Greece – they have all said things that make me think I would enjoy a trip to a Greek Island. Of course, keep in mind I love any place near the water — so chances are good that I would enjoy the trip. However, I've seen my bank

account and there is almost no chance I'll get to Greece. This was one of the reasons I was eager to read *Cafe Tempest: Adventures on a Small Greek Island*.

Barbara Bonfigli set this fictional memoir on a fictional island that is based somewhat on an island that she visits. Sarah is the main character and the narrator's name. She gives us her impression of the people, the places, the sites, the sounds, the food and much more as we make our way through *Cafe Tempest*. I enjoyed all these elements of Greece and enjoyed my trip to Pharos.

Sarah travels to Pharos to get away from a break up and for a holiday — her friend, who we find out is a former lover, travels with her to Pharos. They approach the island and the people in different ways. It's clear that Alexandra, Sarah's friend, is not used to the quaint village and the way of life in Pharos. But, they make the best of their time on the island and Sarah is convinced to direct the locals in a play — this works out well and seems like a natural fit because of her experience in the theatre. However, she's used to dealing with experienced, professional and talented actors — the locals do not fit that description at all. To make it even more interesting, she picked Shakespeare's *The Tempest* as the play that they will perform.

The casting, the rehearsals, the locals, the limited access to transportation and communication are just a few of the colorful elements of this story. The Volvo that seems to disappear on a regular basis is just one of the fluky things that happens during the story.

The characters are colorful and perhaps too plentiful. I am a big fan of writing in first person and all my novels are written in this format. However, I noticed something while I was reading this book that I will be even more conscious of from now on. While first person gives you insights into the mind and thoughts of the narrator — there were times when I felt those thoughts were not being shared as much as they were being shoved on me. There were also times when I felt the author was trying too hard — in these areas, the story didn't flow as easily as it did in other areas. One other thing — and all authors struggle with this — there were times when the dialogue would've been more effective for me if it had been trimmed. These were just a few things that struck me as I was reading the book.

If you want to travel to a faraway place through the pages of a book — which is one of my favorite things about reading — this is a book that you will enjoy. If you want to get a comical and detailed view of a Greek island — you should definitely read this book. It was enjoyable, I often laughed out loud while I was reading it and I enjoyed the sights and sounds of Greece. It would be fun to read on the beach, by the pool, or inside on a snowy day when you would like to be on the beach.

Rating: 4 / 5 [Nikki Leigh](#)

<http://www.how2thailand.com/cafe-tempest-adventures-on-a-small-greek-island/>