



The Villa

By Nora Roberts

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The Villa By Nora Roberts

#1 New York Times bestselling author Nora Roberts exposes a proud family's deadly secrets in this passionate tale of two Napa Valley rivals...

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, Sophia 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.

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The Villa By Nora Roberts Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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

From Publishers Weekly

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 steepens 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.

From *Library Journal*

Determined that the family legacy of excellent wines will not die when she does, Tereza Giambelli sets her extended family in an uproar when she shuffles the staffing and arranges for her granddaughter Sophia and her step-grandson Tyler McMillan to work together in the business for one year in order to inherit their shares of the company. But displeased as Ty and Sophia are by this arrangement, others are even more upset. Upset enough to kill and destroy in order to get what they want. Working her typical magic, Roberts has penned a fast-paced, clearly plotted story of jealousy, greed, and family discord set in the heart of the Napa Valley, peopled with characters you care about, and well laced with equal helpings of romance and suspense. Roberts (*Heart of the Sea*) is one of the best known of all romance writers and lives in Keedysville, MD. Fans will be waiting for this one.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Betty Freeman:

Is it anyone who having spare time and then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This *The Villa* can be the reply, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your time by reading in this brand new era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

Jeff Cunningham:

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Daryl Sanders:

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