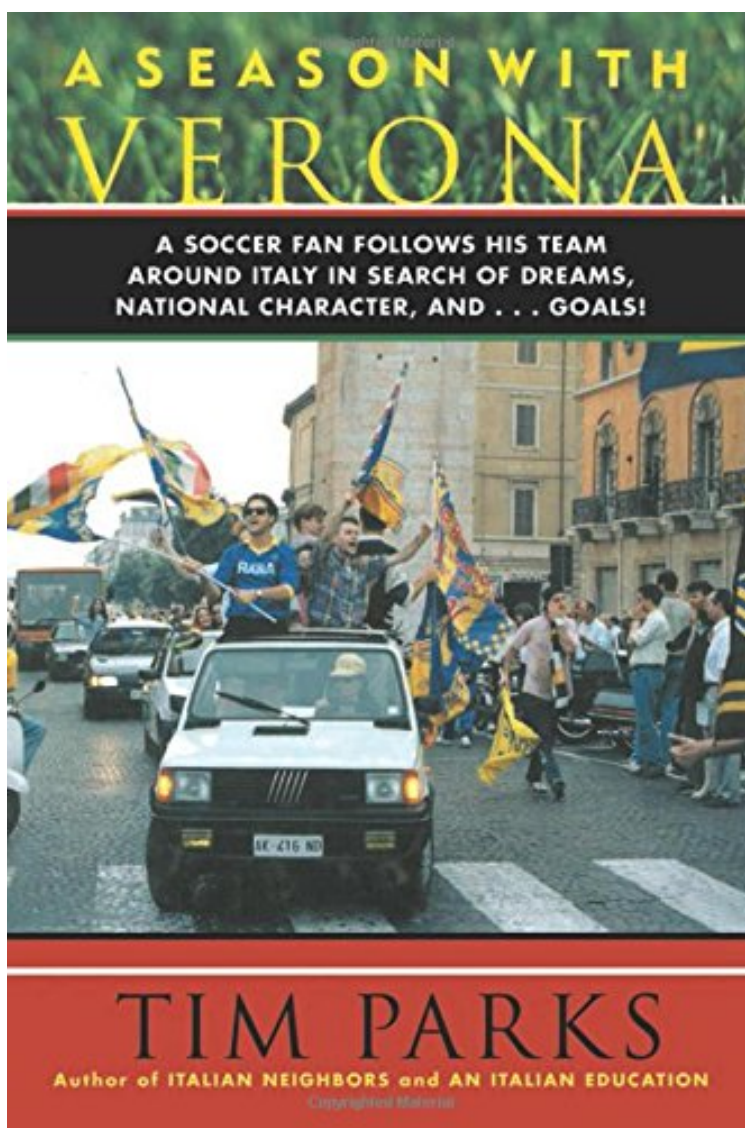


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## **A Season with Verona: A Soccer Fan Follows His Team Around Italy in Search of Dreams, National Character and . . . Goals!**

*Tim Parks*

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**Tim Parks : A Season with Verona: A Soccer Fan Follows His Team Around Italy in Search of Dreams, National Character and . . . Goals!** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Season with Verona: A Soccer Fan Follows His Team Around Italy in Search of Dreams, National Character and . . . Goals!:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Perhaps not for everyone  
By R. Sheppard  
Let me say first off that I am enamored with Italy/Sicily and the Italian culture having traveled extensively throughout the country, mingling with the natives. I had read another book by Tim Parks having to deal with Italian trains and their history along with his witticisms describing his commutes from his home in Verona to his employment in Milan. I found him specific at times but often hilarious as you can see the warm collision of Parks, an Englishman, trying to understand the sometimes incomparable logic of the Italians. I also gained an understanding of the foreign soccer fans; their importance to the sport as well as their passion for the game. Neither book was a page turner, rather an interesting book you could go back and pick up easily while following the continuity of the story line. I never considered not completing either book but often read something else in between. I plan to look for other books by this author as I think he mysteriously has me hooked.  
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another great book by Tim Parks  
By Piccolo Venice  
Another great book by Tim Parks. Though not a soccer fan (in fact it bores me to tears) I couldn't put this book down. The descriptions of the players, owners, and especially the fans is fascinating. The camaraderie of the faithful and love of the team puts the most diehard American football (real football, where you use your hands) to shame.  
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great read for any sports fan  
By Anthony  
The book started a little slow, but drew in me in about 1/3 in. I couldn't put it down once I passed that threshold. Since I didn't really follow Serie A 10 years ago, I had no idea how things would turn out for Verona. It couldn't have been better scripted had it been fiction. Really great read. If you're any kind of sports fan but especially a fan of 2nd tier team, you can sympathize. Reminds me of the rabid Lions fans back in Detroit. Why follow them when they never succeed?  
Beside the story, Tim Parks is brilliant. The parallels he draws between a love a sport and other parts of life and entertainment.

Is Italy a united country, or a loose affiliation of warring states? Is Italian football (which we Americans know as "soccer") a sport, or an ill-disguised protraction of ancient enmities? After twenty years in the bel paese, Tim Parks goes on the road to follow the fortunes of his hometown soccer club, Hellas Verona, to pay a different kind of visit to some of the world's most beautiful cities, and to get a fresh take on the conundrum that is national character. From Udine to Catania, from the San Siro to the Olimpico, traveling with the raucous and unruly Verona fans—whose conduct is a cross between that of asylum inmates and the Keystone Kops—Tim Parks offers his highly personal account of one man's relationship with a country, its people, and its national sport. The clubs are struggling, as always, to keep their heads above water in Series A. The fans, as always, are accused of vulgarity, racism, and violence. It's an election year and politics encroaches. The police are ambiguous, the journeys exhausting, the referees unforgivable, the anecdotes hilarious. And behind it all is the growing intuition that in a world stripped of idealism and bereft of religion, soccer offers a new and fiercely ironic way of forming community and engaging with the sacred.

About the Author  
Tim Parks is the author of more than twenty novels and works of nonfiction, including the best-selling *Italian Neighbors* and *An Italian Education*. His novels include *Europa* which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. His essays have appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*, for which he blogs. Tim Park is also a renowned translator. He lives in Italy.