



## Catano on goodnight books, Verona's secrets

Posted on April 30, 2026 by Alina Trabattoni

VERONA, Veneto — We spoke to Anna Maria Catano, an Italian journalist and author whose books span travel writing and narrative non-fiction, at the launch of her contribution to the *Libri della Buonanotte* (Good Night Books) series commissioned by iconic Due Torri Hotels, which celebrates the tenth anniversary of this unique editorial venture this year. The series replaces the classic hotelier 'goodnight chocolate on the pillow' with a slim, bilingual volume on a local cultural site or event, written for guests to read themselves to sleep. Catano's edition focuses on the Basilica di Sant'Anastasia, a Gothic church just steps from the hotel that most visitors walk straight past on their way to Juliet's balcony, Romeo's house, and the Arena. Inside, she found a Pisanello fresco that leaves you open-mouthed, a pair of medieval stone hunchbacks that locals have rubbed for good luck for centuries, and a building whose Italian Gothic architecture rivals the great cathedrals of Europe while remaining entirely its own. Physical book sales in Italy are rising modestly but steadily, including among readers under 35, and Catano sees the *Libri della Buonanotte* format as a quiet act of resistance against the phone, the streaming platform, and the relentless noise of notifications.

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