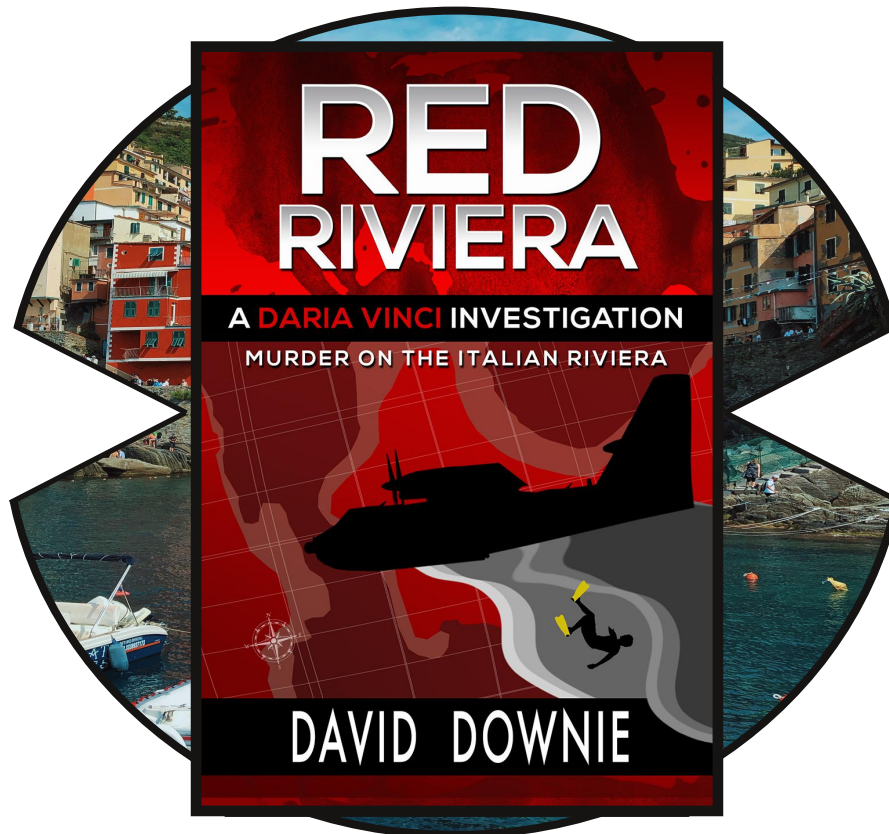


# RED RIVIERA



A New Mystery from Acclaimed Writer David Downie

*“A shocking premise, a stunning locale, and a complex web of history, politics, and crime”*



Its jaws open wide, a firefighting seaplane skims the glittering Gulf of Portofino on Italy’s jagged Ligurian coast, scooping up a lone swimmer named Joe Gary. The superrich, retired Italian-American has mob connections and a dirty political past. Has he been snatched by accident or murdered?

*Red Riviera*, Commissioner Daria Vinci’s first investigation, is a wild ride from the tangled trails of the Cinque Terre to glamorous Portofino to roistering Genoa. It’s a Riviera made red by riotous bougainvillea—and spilled blood.

Half-American, Daria Vinci is an outsider, the unlikely rising star of Genoa’s secretive Special Operations Directorate, DIGOS. In *Red Riviera*, she must face down a Fascist police chief, the CIA’s local mastermind, a former World War Two Spitfire fighter pilot, and a plucky hundred-year-old marquise whose memory is as long as it is vengeful.

# Praise for Red Riviera



If you love Aurelio Zen, Aimee Leduc, or Inspector Brunetti, you won't be able to put down this captivating first adventure of Commissioner Daria Vinci.



*Red Riviera* had me in its clutches from the start—and refused to let go. A shocking premise, a stunning locale, and a complex web of history, politics, and crime that also somehow makes perfect sense in the end. The pacing is flawless, the engaging characters leave you curious for more. Another, please!

## Matthew Félix

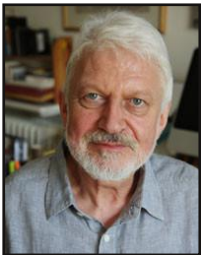
Award-winning author of *A Voice Beyond Reason* and *Porcelain Travels*



*Red Riviera* is one of the most high-spirited, well-informed, and exuberantly written thrillers I've read in a long time. It's also funny as all get out. With his unsparing eye for detail, Downie takes the reader on an informative and unforgettable whirlwind tour of Genoa, its history, architecture, politics, manners, and mores. A gem.

## Harriet Welty Rochefort

author of *French Toast* and *Joie de Vivre*



Gripping, with a plot as intricate as a da Vinci maze, *Red Riviera* is wonderfully atmospheric, showcasing author David Downie's intimate knowledge of things Italian—the landscapes, cityscapes and social mores, all drawn with the lightest of touches. I particularly loved Commissioner Daria Vinci and the dark humor that runs throughout this masterful crime novel. Bravo, bravissimo!

## Anton Gill

author of *The Sacred Scroll* and *City of Gold*



*Red Riviera* is so well plotted, so sensitive to present and past Italian history, so deep in characterization, that I want to see more of Daria Vinci. What a cast. A grand, unputdownable read until the lights go out. Marvelous!

## Ronald C. Rosbottom

Author of *When Paris Went Dark: The City of Light Under German Occupation*



[*Red Riviera* is] a delightful romp that sparkles like sunshine on the Mediterranean.

## Ellen Crosby

Author of *The Angels' Share*



Alan Squire Publishing



David Downie is the award-winning author of three previous crime novels and over a dozen nonfiction books translated into a variety of foreign languages, including French, Italian, Chinese, and Korean. His articles and essays have appeared in anthologies, magazines, and newspapers worldwide. Downie was born in San Francisco and holds degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and Brown University. He is married to photographer Alison Harris. Since 1986, he has divided his time between Italy, France, and California. [www.daviddownie.com](http://www.daviddownie.com)



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Our collaborators on various projects include Left Coast Writers in San Francisco, California; Chris Andrews Publications, Ltd., in Oxford, England; and the Santa Fe Writers Project, now based in Bethesda, Maryland.