

Discussion Questions

1. Before reading *A Secret in Tuscany*, what did you know about the German occupation of Italy in World War II? Were you aware of the Racial Laws and the Italian and Jewish resistance organization called DELASEM? What did you know about the women who served in the Italian Resistance?
2. Why is Gianna willing to risk her life by hiding Jews on her family's vineyard? How does the death of Gianna's brother influence her service in the Resistance?
3. Why do you think Tazio volunteered to join the OSS? How does his Jewish ethnicity shape his actions in German-occupied Italy?
4. Describe Gianna. What kind of woman is she? What attributes did Gianna possess that made her well suited for the Italian Resistance? What is meant by the affirmation *Catch the moment*? Describe her relationship with her father, Beppe. What role does Beppe play in shaping Gianna's values and beliefs?
5. While fighting in the Italian Resistance, Gianna and Tazio fall in love. What brings them together? Why does their relationship develop so quickly? At what point do you think Gianna realized she loved Tazio? How is the war a catalyst for their affection? What are Gianna and Tazio's hopes and dreams?
6. Describe Lilla. Why do you think Gianna and Lilla formed a strong friendship?
7. Prior to reading the book, what did you know about the Sant'Anna di Stazzema massacre? What did you know about the Allied bombing raid on Florence in September of 1943?

8. What are the major themes of *A Secret in Tuscany*?
9. Why do many readers enjoy historical fiction, in particular, novels set in World War II? To what degree do you think Hlad took creative liberties with this story?
10. How do you envision what happens after the end of the book? What do you think Gianna and Tazio's lives will be like?