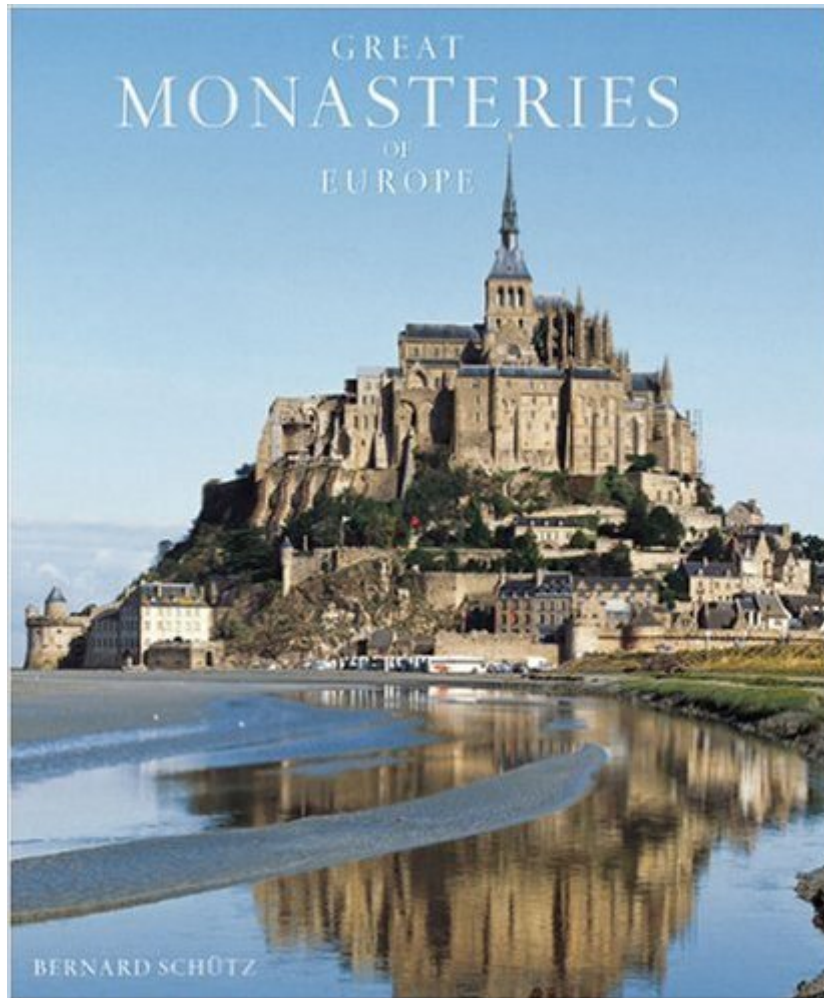


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# Great Monasteries Of Europe



## Synopsis

This remarkable book is a comprehensive examination of the art and architecture of European monasteries, from early Carolingian examples in the eighth century to a modern structure by Le Corbusier in 1960, featuring an authoritative text and more than five hundred stunning, full-color photographs. This unsurpassed survey offers a fresh chronicle of a largely overlooked subject and hundreds of marvelous images, many of them newly photographed, of more than 150 of the most interesting and best preserved monasteries in Spain, Portugal, France, Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Italy—all of which are accessible to visitors. Here are unique views of the art and architecture of such treasured places as Mont St. Michel, a wondrous Benedictine sanctuary off the coast of Brittany, and the fabled pilgrimage site in Assisi founded by St. Francis. In an insightful text the author describes the cultural heritage of each of the monasteries portrayed and provides an introduction to monasticism and to the various orders dating from the early Christian era to the present. In addition, the volume offers plans of the sites, a glossary, and a bibliography. Historians and collectors of great books of art history will be intrigued by this unsurpassed collection of photographs and fascinating account of the artistic glory of European monasteries.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lots of beautiful and new photos of old cloisters: consisting in good panoramic views and details. Well presented with a brief history of Europe and brief theological explanations of monastic life. Descriptions are simple and short enough for the off-hand reader. The book is huge and heavy;

more for desk reading rather than in bed. But it served my purpose of historico-monastic information blended with architectural purposes.

This is the most beautiful and informative art book I have ever owned, even surpassing author Schutz's "Great Cathedrals". The visual wealth and beauty of the monastic buildings in the book defies description. In the architecture and art one can see the cross-fertilization of influences from one end of Christendom to the other. The text is excellent and informative adding even more life to this stunning volume. Reading and studying the architecture of this book is like getting a several month trip to monasteries all over Europe in one's home, not bad considering its price of less than 90 dollars!

This is the best art book I have bought in a long time. The photographs are superb, perfectly framed and perfectly lit; and the monasteries, especially the mediaeval monasteries of the Iberian peninsula, and those of the baroque period, are absolutely breathtaking. Everything in color and full page - large, large pages! The only regret is that it leaves you wanting many more images of each monastery, but with the size of the book, this would have required six volumes. That being the case, I would buy each and every volume if it maintained this visual standard. The text was informative, although again necessarily limited given the scope of the work. A wonderful, wonderful book.

This book is not only an informative and carefully researched volume, but is also a fine addition to the coffee table. Each monastery is photographed either as a general view or some wonderful detail area is chosen and shown in its beauty. Not only a collection of handsome photos, the book contains thoughtfully written descriptions and stories of the monasteries- to the point, yet interesting.

The book has lots of good pictures. Excellent presentation and selection (although I would exclude some minor monasteries and include others, like Mafra, Montserrat and Guadalupe). The only complaint I have is in regards of the short explanations of some monasteries.

It's unusual to see a book receive a five star rating from every review submitted. This book has - and deservedly so. After enjoying Bernard Shultz's work on the "Great Cathedrals" for over a year now, I knew I would have to order "Monasteries". Neither of these books is inexpensive but they are both well worth the investment. The photography is exemplary - nice full page images all in brilliant color. There are dozen of monasteries highlighted. They are organized by country and each is given

a three or four page treatment. When a book of five hundred pages leaves you wishing there was a second volume they've done something right. For those interested in Romanesque, Gothic or Baroque, ecclesiastical architecture they are indeed fortunate. In addition to the above mentioned books from Abbeville, Ullmann has released "Ars Sacra", "Baroque" and "Gothic", all three spectacular productions and very reasonably priced (given their size). "Great Monasteries" is a well produced book and should offer years of viewing pleasure. Hats off to the authors, photographers and publisher for bringing us this treasure.

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