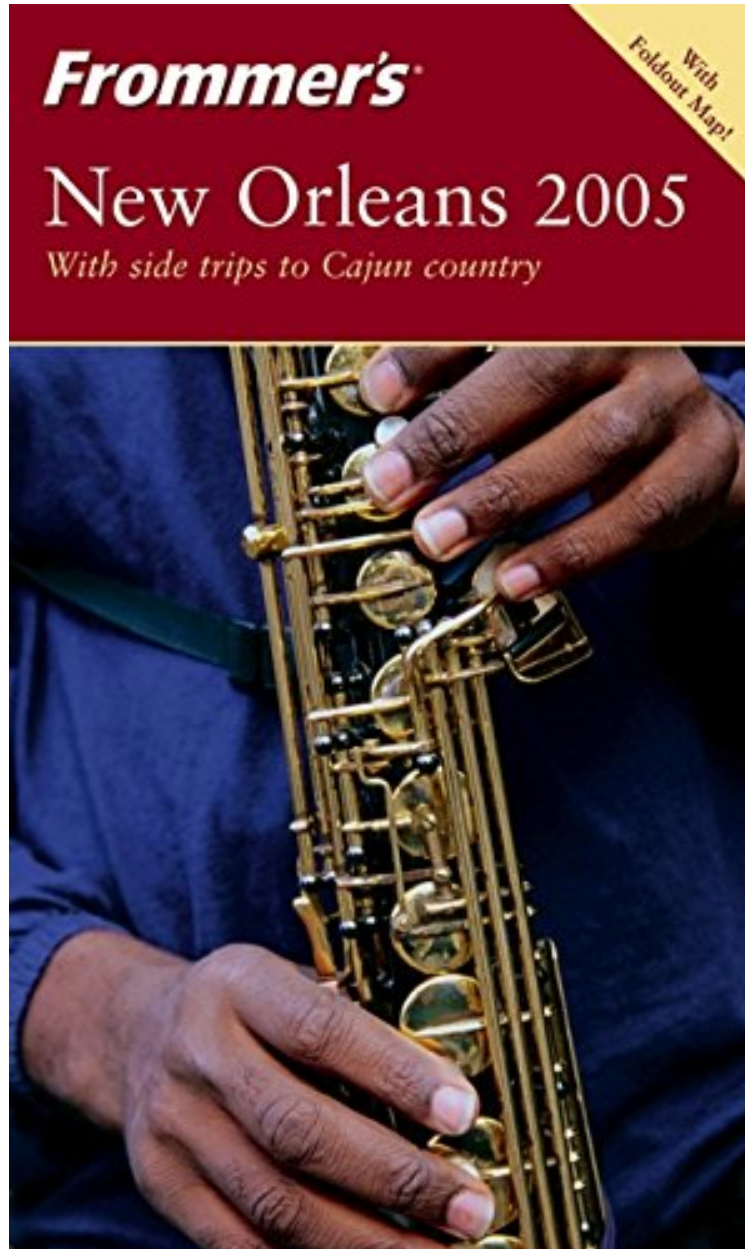


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Frommer's New Orleans 2005 (Frommer's Complete Guides)

Mary Herczog

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Mary Herczog : Frommer's New Orleans 2005 (Frommer's Complete Guides) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Frommer's New Orleans 2005 (Frommer's Complete Guides):

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing and a Little Confusing...By A CustomerOverall, I found this book somewhat difficult to use. My focus on my first visit to New Orleans was the French Quarter and I found the maps to be very lacking. The cross streets were not listed on part of the map, so we actually had to locate another map at the hotel to take with us. We visited several of the places not recommended in the book (like the flea market in the French Quarter), and if you are looking for typical "tourist" type items, then this is by far the cheapest and best place to shop! I would definitely recommend purchasing another book in addition to this one to get someone else's perspective on the French Quarter. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. The best 2002 New Orleans guide out !By fdoamericaFrommer New Orleans 2002 will guide to and through New Orleans. It will open up the city for you like a jazz player opening his trumpet case. New Orleans is Mardi Gras (fittingly the etymology of 'Mardi Gras' goes back to a Roman orgy). This annual event defines New Orleans for the million plus tourist that come to be part of this "party to end all parties". There is music, lots of jazz music, parades, salacious acts, alcohol, food and sex that incarnate this granddaddy of public parties. But, as hundreds of thousands of other visitors to New Orleans can tell you, all of these traits can be easily be found throughout the year in this emancipated city. Be assured that Frommer's guide will open this city up for you, anytime of the year. The guide's accommodations and dining recommendations are up to date, plentiful, generally accurate and reliable. However, my experience at the Pelham Hotel did not warrant the "highly rated" star that Frommer's gave it. The carpets in the room were stained and needed cleaning, there was a noticeable odor in the hall and room, the front desk staff was apathetic and some of the normal amenities that hotels in this price range offer (in room coffee, etc) were not provided. Frommer's needs to rethink its rating on this property. Frommer's star rating system is difficult to locate. It is buried away from the recommendations in the first portion of the book. When I did find the ratings they were somewhat difficult to understand and confusing. There are zero to three stars but moderate or inexpensive restaurants and hotels can only get zero, one or two, but NOT three. The very expensive to expensive restaurants and hotels can be awarded one, two or three stars, but NOT zero. So an expensive property CAN'T get a zero (but in my last experience, the Sheraton New Orleans needs a -0) and a moderate restaurant CAN'T get a three star rating ("exceptional"). Frommer's must feel that if a property has a lot of money invested they could not totally disappoint and if a proprietor did not invest big bucks, well they could ever reach exceptional. Wrong. This is the weakest area of this book and definitely needs improvement. Maps are essential in a guide, and for this Mississippi twisting city good maps are a must. Frommer's has excelled in this area and has included a free color fold out map in the back of the book. Kudos! A wonderfully strong aspect of this guide, that can be very beneficial to your trip planning, are the Internet web site addresses provided with almost every hotel. You now can visit the hotel site and see the in room accommodation, check out the specials and rates prior to making your reservations. The guide also has a very good shopping section, and many of the listed stores also have web site addresses. Also there is a very solid section on recommend books and recordings (though it sorely lacks any mention of videos - films set in N.O.). Finally, for those with more than three days Frommer's provides a good selection of trips outside of New Orleans. As Frommer's says "the best way to get inside New Orleans is to plunge right in. Don't just go for the obvious This city has so much more to offer." And so does this guide. Strongly Recommended 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Great Guide: Reliable and Proven By John Thomson I looked at a number of guides to New Orleans before selecting Frommer's 2002 New Orleans to help me with my trip. Frommer's was my favorite. It provides detailed, accurate and reliable information on attractions, hotels, restaurants, shopping, and various other topics. Frommer's was by far the most comprehensive guide I saw for most topics. I was particularly pleased with the down-to-earth discussion of attractions: museums, parks, bars, public places, etc. The maps were also excellent: a good map (in reality, several good maps) is a necessity for getting around New Orleans and making the most of the city. Frommer's guide provides better than average maps and good information on attractions that will help ensure you're making the most of your time. As a bonus, the attractions are marked on many maps near the parts of the book where they're discussed, and when you see how New Orleans streets are laid out, you'll understand how useful that is! I was disappointed in the guide's coverage of restaurants, though. I thought they detailed relatively few restaurants, and found their descriptions and ratings fairly weak. My sister, who lives in New Orleans, took us to several "locals" places that were at least as good as the highly rated restaurants in the guide. The lesson is: don't be afraid to experiment. If you need to rely on a restaurant guide, choose another. Better yet, ask some locals. My personal favorite was NOLA (get the duck!). The Palace Caf gets a strong recommendation, and if you're in the French Quarter and want a casual lunch, try Central Grocery for great muffalatas. Caf du Mond (coffee and beignets) was a must for me, and I didn't find it disappointing. With the exception of eateries, I relied much on Frommer's guide when planning my trip, and also when we were there. I found the guide's advice to be reliable and concise. It offered great descriptions of attractions, and helped us find several which were perfect for kids (we traveled with our 2-year-old). In particular, we found Audubon Park, The Audubon Zoo, and City Park fantastic for kids and adults alike. Moreover, the guide's information typically matched the things the locals told us. Frommer's will help you get the most out of New Orleans, but equally important is a willingness to try new things and be adventurous. The French Quarter is great, but you'll likely find things you like a lot more in other parts of the city. Frommer's does an excellent job of laying out the material in a format that you can either read through, or easily use as a reference guide. Either way, it should help

you find most of what you're looking for. I can unconditionally recommend it, both because it was the best guide I found before I headed to New Orleans, and because it proved its worth when I was actually there. It definitely added significantly to our enjoyment of the trip.

Completely updated every year (unlike most of the competition), Frommer's New Orleans features gorgeous full-color photos of the lovely architecture, world-class musicians, fabulous food, and flamboyant street parties that await you in the Big Easy. Honest, opinionated, irreverent, and much more in-depth than its major competitors, this is the definitive guide to the incredible dining and nightlife of New Orleans, with all the classic spots plus lots of local secrets and hidden gems. From breakfast at Brennan's to antiques in the Garden District, it's all here in one fun-to-use guide. You'll even find side trips to Cajun Country and the most intriguing plantation homes, and a color fold-out map that makes trip-planning a snap!

From the Publisher Frommer's brings you all the information on all New Orleans has to offer: Best Hotel Bets Best Dining Bets Mardi Gras Other Festivals The French Quarter The Faubourg Marigny Mid City/Esplanade The Garden District Metairie Lake Pontchartrain Parks Gardens Voodoo Anne Rice's New Orleans Walking Tours A Streetcar Tour Cajun Cuisine Seafood The Rhythms of New Orleans Jazz Blues Clubs Cajun Zydeco Joints The Bar Scene The Hurricane Burlesque Strip Clubs Gay Nightlife The Performing Arts Plantation Homes From the Back Cover Experience a place the way the locals do. Enjoy the best it has to offer. Frommers. Your trip begins with us. Complete coverage of Mardi Gras and Jazz Fest celebrations. Outspoken opinions on what's worth your time and what's not. Exact prices, so you can plan the perfect trip no matter what your budget. Off-the-beaten-path experiences and undiscovered gems, plus new takes on top attractions. About the Author Mary Herczog is a freelance writer who also works in the film industry. She is also the author of Frommers Las Vegas, Las Vegas For Dummies, and Los Angeles Disneyland For Dummies and is the coauthor of California For Dummies. After her first Jazz Fest, she said, I will go next year, because that was so much fun. After her second Jazz Fest, she said, I will go next year, but that will be enough. After the third year, she and her husband said, We are never not going to go to Jazz Fest until we die. After 14 years of continuous Jazz Fest attendance, they recently bought a house within walking distance. See what happens? Don't say we didn't warn you.