

**Luca Ventura**  
***Bittersweet Lemons***

Published by Diogenes as *Bittersüße Zitronen*  
Original title: *Bittersüße Zitronen*



On the most beautiful island in the world, the lemons are ripening for the Bellinis' famous Limoncello. But then, the Constantinis suddenly stop supplying - they want to make the shift to organic fruits and crowd farming. When Elisa Constantini dies in a mysterious accident on Capri's serpentine roads, the island's young detective Enrico Rizzi and his dynamic colleague Antonia Cirillo lead the investigation - and find themselves gazing into an abyss of old feuds and new disputes.

Luca Ventura prefers to remain anonymous. The writer spends a large part of the year on the Gulf of Naples, where he is currently working on the next case in the *Capri* series about the islander Enrico Rizzi and his north Italian colleague Antonia Cirillo.

## Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature, Crime Fiction  
320 pages  
12.5 x 20.5 x 2 cm  
April 2021

Contact:  
Susanne Bauknecht, Rights Director,  
susanne.bauknecht@diogenes.ch and Suzanne  
Héglé, Film Rights Manager,  
suzanne.hegele@diogenes.ch

**Translation rights currently sold:**  
French (Livre de Poche)  
Italian (Giunti)

### Bestseller

Spiegel bestseller (paperback)  
Swiss bestseller

### Praise

#### *Bittersweet Lemons*

»*Bittersweet Lemons* is a gripping family saga about greed and passion under the Capri sun.«  
– Volker Albers / Hamburger Abendblatt, Hamburg

»And even if it rains a lot this time: there's a great deal of flair from the country where lemons grow.« – Marianne Fischer / Kleine Zeitung, Graz

»Whether you read it with limoncello on the beach, or with lemon soda by the pool, *Bittersweet Lemons* has everything you need from a gripping and entertaining summer thriller.« – ORF, Vienna

#### Luca Ventura

»The Gulf of Naples has held a magical appeal for me ever since I was young. Luca Ventura knows it inside out. He writes elegant, naturalistic crime novels – appealing to people who would not usually see themselves as crime novel fans.« – Benedict Wells

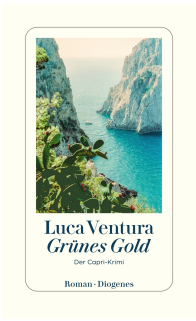
»Luca Ventura skilfully combines tension with Italian flair. Pure pleasure.« – Gala, Hamburg

»Ideal for anybody who enjoys the thrill of crime without too much gore.« – Regula Tanner / Schweizer Familie, Zurich

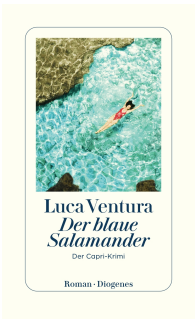
»Ventura knows how to depict family feuds and fatal love affairs in an exciting way.« – Ruhr Nachrichten, Dortmund

»His crime fiction also makes wonderful holiday reading: exciting, entertaining, and intelligent.« – Sabine Weichelt / Freie Presse, Chemnitz

»Luca Ventura is an elegant literary stylist who deftly narrates sun-soaked crime stories.« – Volker Albers / Hamburger Abendblatt



**Green Gold**  
320 pages  
2025



**The Blue Salamander**  
336 pages  
2024

**Bestseller**



**Pale as the Moon**  
304 pages  
2023

**Bestseller**



**In a Hidden Cove**  
336 pages  
2022

**Bestseller**



**In the Middle of August**  
336 pages  
2020

**Bestseller**