nates which share some uses in certain instances, but not in others, such as “terreno, n.m. — [which] can be terrain (un terreno montuoso, mountainous terrain) but also plot, land, or even playing field. The sign vendite terreni means: building plots for sale, le imposte sui terreni is tax on building land, il terreno coltivabile/arabile is arable land, and scendere sul terreno is: to take the field, [...]” (112). As may be seen from these three examples, Ferguson gives plenty of insight into the usage of the living language. It should also be noted that most entries include cross-references to other entries that are in some way associated with the original Italian cognate. By following up on synonyms and other related terms, and discovering a range of possible translations in Italian, the users of Italian False Friends are able to increase their lexicon, and to use the language in a more flexible and effective manner. In the case of “terreno,” for instance, Ferguson suggests that readers consult the entry for “territorio,” thereby giving them a further option to consider in choosing the most appropriate word being sought.

Apart from the entries themselves, Italian False Friends includes other useful features. The brief but informative preface is beneficial to the user of the text, providing insight into the choices made by the author in compiling the entries, and outlining some of the limitations of preparing such a text. The explanations provided give the readers a clearer understanding of the difficulties involved in mastering a living language. The text also contains a comprehensive bibliography, which may act as a springboard for further study of the phenomenon of English-Italian cognates. The bibliography consists of diverse items, from workbooks suitable for native speakers of either English or Italian, to academic essays written about false friends, to dictionaries of the Italian language, Italian-English and English-Italian dictionaries, etymological dictionaries, and other reference books listing Anglicisms and foreign loan words in Italian. It is therefore an important reference work for instructors of Italian who require further resources in the field, or for writers of Italian who wish to refine their Italian vocabulary.

To conclude, the text Italian False Friends is a welcome tool for those interested in enriching their Italian lexicon. The entries have been assembled, selected and defined in a conscientious and skillful manner, and the text truly constitutes a solid contribution to the corpus of material on Italian-English cognates, and to the field of language learning in general.

LUCY DI ROSA
University of Toronto