

Haruki Murakami

Winner of the Lattes Grinzane Literary Prize 2019

“La Quercia” Section

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Haruki Murakami has won the **Lattes Grinzane Literary Prize 2019 “La Quercia” section**, which is dedicated to Mario Lattes (the publisher, painter, and writer, who passed away in 2001).

Haruki Murakami was born in 1949 in Kyoto, Japan. He grew up in Kobe and then moved to Tokyo, where he attended Waseda University. While in college, Murakami opened a small jazz bar, which he ran for seven years. His first novel, *Hear the Wind Sing*, won the Gunzou Literature Prize for

budding writers in 1979, and helped him establish a cult audience for his early works. Murakami achieved wider recognition in 1987 with the phenomenal bestseller, *Norwegian Wood*, which he wrote while living in Rome. Since then, he has published several novels, including international bestsellers, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, *Kafka on the Shore*, and *1Q84*. His latest novel is the two-volume *Killing Commendatore*, published in Japan in 2017 and in Italy in 2018 and 2019. He has also published short story collections, nonfiction, and essay collections. His work has been translated into more than fifty languages.

Murakami is also known as an accomplished English-Japanese translator. Among his translations are novels and stories by Raymond Carver, J. D. Salinger, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Truman Capote, Grace Paley, and Raymond Chandler.

In 2018, Murakami began DJing on his own radio program, Murakami Radio (Tokyo FM).

«Now a cult author worldwide, writer Murakami has contributed to bring Japan closer to western readers», claims the **Technical Jury of the Literary Bottari Lattes Prize**. «Since his debut, in the late 1970's, he managed to move out of the Japanese literary framework thus creating a new and extremely original narrative world, by means of a brand-new and highly communicative language, very close to the spoken one. His straightforward style finds a way to tackle existential topics – the regret for what is “lost”, the search for one's own identity throughout an absurd and estranged existence, the feeling of being drawn to the mysterious and magic side of the world – and touch some of Japan's raw nerves: its historical faults, its past and current political responsibilities. A relevant feature in Murakami's great novels is represented by the fact that their characters just have ordinary lives (and the wide number of his readers can immediately identify with them, beyond any cultural barrier), but as the story proceeds it may be hanging between the real world and the unreal one, having to deal with magic and even disturbing events. This abrupt shift from reality to dream is perfectly representing the condition of contemporary humans, totally dismayed before newer and newer and unrestrainable phenomena. However, digressing in a parallel universe is not a form of escape, rather a in-depth journey within ourselves, searching for what is hidden recesses of our minds».

Major works

Novels

HEAR THE WIND SING (Kodansha, 1979)

PINBALL, 1973 (Kodansha, 1980)

A WILD SHEEP CHASE (Kodansha, 1982)

HARD-BOILED WONDERLAND AND THE END OF THE WORLD (Shinchosha, 1985)

NORWEGIAN WOOD (Kodansha, 1987)
DANCE, DANCE, DANCE (Kodansha, 1988)
SOUTH OF THE BORDER, WEST OF THE SUN (Kodansha, 1992)
THE WIND-UP BIRD CHRONICLE (Shinchosha, 1994-1995)
SPUTNIK SWEETHEART (Kodansha, 1999)
KAFKA ON THE SHORE (Shinchosha, 2002)
AFTER DARK (Kodansha, 2004)
1Q84 (Shinchosha, 2009-2010)
COLORLESS TSUKURU TAZAKI AND HIS YEARS OF PILGRIMAGE (Bungeishunju, 2013)
KILLING COMMENDATORE (Shinchosha, 2017)

Short Story Collections

THE ELEPHANT VAISHES (Alfred A. Knopf, 1993)
AFTER THE QUAKE (Shinchosha, 2000)
BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING WOMAN (Alfred A. Knopf, 2006)
MEN WITHOUT WOMEN (Bungeishunju, 2014)

Non-fiction/ Essays

UNDERGROUND (Kodansha, 1997)
PORTRAITS IN JAZZ (Shinchosha, 1997, 2001)
WHAT I TALK ABOUT WHEN I TALK ABOUT RUNNING (Bungeishunju, 2007)
NOVELIST AS A VOCATION (Switch Publishing, 2015)

Major Awards and Honors

The Gunzou Literature Prize for Budding Writers (Japan, 1979) for *HEAR THE WIND SING*
The Noma Literary Prize for New Writers (Japan, 1982) for *A WILD SHEEP CHASE*
The Tanizaki Junichiro Prize (Japan 1985)
for *HARD-BOILED WONDERLAND AND THE END OF THE WORLD*
The Yomiuri Literary Prize (Japan, 1996) for *THE WIND-UP BIRD CHRONICLE*
The Frank O'Connor Short Story Award (Ireland, 2006) for *BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING WOMAN*
The Franz Kafka Prize (Czech, 2006)
The World Fantasy Award (USA, 2006) for *KAFKA ON THE SHORE*
The Asahi Prize (Japan, 2007)
The Waseda University Tsubouchi Shoyo Prize (Japan, 2007)
The Berkeley Japan Prize (USA, 2008)
The Jerusalem Prize (Israel, 2009)
The Mainichi Publishing Culture Prize (Japan, 2009) for *1Q84 Book 1/ Book 2*
The Order of Arts and Letters of Spain (Spain, 2009)
The Catalonia International Prize (Spain, 2011)
The Hideo Kobayashi Prize (Japan, 2012) for *ABSOLUTELY ON MUSIC*
The Japan Foundation Award (Japan, 2012)
The Welt literature Prize (Germany, 2014)
The Hans Christian Andersen Literature Award (Denmark, 2016)
The Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Commandeur (France, 2018)