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Da Vinci Code podcast takes Dan Brown to task

The first in a monthly podcast to be released for free download by travel and reference publisher Rough Guides is an interview with the co-author of the Rough Guide to the Da Vinci Code, James McConnachie. McConnachie, who co-wrote the Rough Guide to Conspiracy Theories, and has also written Rough Guides covering Paris, claims Brown “goes wildly astray with Paris. It’s one of the funniest things in the book. . .If you want fiction not facts, mistakes, outright research errors, all you’ve got to do is look at the geography of Paris. For example, he’s got Versailles in the north and Robert and Sophie buying tickets for Lille at the Gare St-Lazare. And there are definitely not 666 panes of glass in the Louvre pyramid – I’ve counted them myself and there are at least 673, depending on whether you count the doors as one pane or more.” Brown may or may not be a brilliant thriller writer, but he wouldn’t get a travel-writing job at Rough Guides. Some of Brown’s errors, those not essential to the plot, have been corrected in subsequent editions, as McConnachie explains. He goes on: “We talk about the locations. I know Paris backwards and we talk about exactly what these places are like and what the history behind them is, where Dan Brown goes wrong and what happens in the film.”

From May 2006, Rough Guides will release a monthly podcast. Every month, the publisher will make available the latest author interviews, travel information and ideas to inspire travel and exploration. The podcasts, ranging from fifteen to thirty minutes in length, are available for free subscription and download at www.roughguides.com and at Apple’s *iTunes Music Store*, the world’s biggest podcast library.

Richard Trillo, Rough Guides’ Director of Communications, said: “Podcasting technology allows authors to talk in a very direct way to readers – you get a strong and immediate flavour of the author’s enthusiasm for his or her subject. We’re really delighted to be able to launch this new platform with an infectiously enthusiastic and amusing interview with James McConnachie”

Rough Guides publishes more than 300 travel guides, maps and phrasebooks, and sixty reference titles, ranging from the Rough Guide to Babies to the Rough Guide to iPods. For more information, contact Rough Guides’ press office on 020 7010 3701 or email press@roughguides.com