Critical Reviews of *The Basque Hotel*

"This short, beautifully written, semiautobiographical novel is a small gem, a perfect example of a childhood tranquilly recollected. . . . A rare find, a totally genuine, unaffected voice."

---*Publishers Weekly*

"Robert Laxalt skillfully combines a Tom Sawyer-like evocation of adolescence with unpredictable flurries of ribaldry and violence; tall tales and shaggy-dog stories mingle with delicately understated passages, signifying Pete’s bumpy progress toward maturity. . . .[Laxalt] displays a talent for descriptive sequences that pack together conflicting sensory impressions. The wisdom of perspective also graces this book. It’s a knowing affectionate backward look at an earlier America. The story does not escape sentimentality, but Mr. Laxalt’s painterly eye for detail and amused empathy with his young protagonist endow it with authentic charm."

---*The New York Times Book Review*

"This shapely, small novel is as weightless and peaceful as cranes in the moment they break for sky."

---*The Washington Post Book World*

"*The Basque Hotel* snaps open like a hot chorizo sausage, drawing in the reader at once. It’s entertaining, nostalgic, sentimental, funny and sad."

---*The Las Vegas Review-Journal*

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