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Autore	Prendergast Christopher
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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Abbreviations -- 1. Introduction: The Profession of Criticism -- 2. The View from Montserrat -- 3. Classic and Nation -- 4. Latinity and the Second Renaissance -- 5. Homer or Virgil? -- 6. Origins and the Middle Ages -- 7. Romans, Gauls, and Franks -- 8. Literature and Democracy -- 9. The Foundations of Culture -- 10. The Modern Classic -- 11. Postscript: The Good Frenchman -- Index -- A -- B -- C -- D -- E -- F -- G -- H -- I -- J -- K -- L -- M -- N -- O -- P -- Q -- R -- S -- T -- V -- W -- X -- Z.
Sommario/riassunto	Focusing on a moment and a source in 19th-century France, Christopher Prendergast takes up a big question that is still with us: What is a classic? His enquiry, which centres on the French critic Sainte-Beuve (1804-69), who asked the question 'Qu'est-ce qu'un classique?' in an essay of 1850, takes us on a tour of the history of the 'classic' that provides insights into and beyond the 'culture wars' of the 19th century.