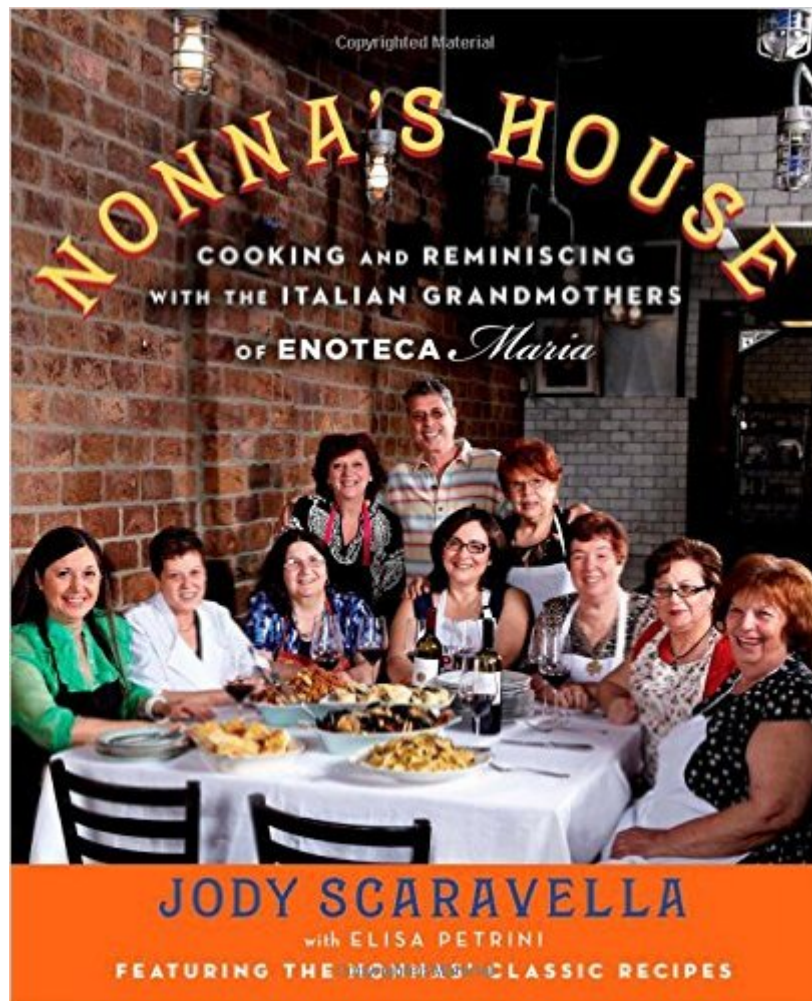


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Nonna's House: Cooking And Reminiscing With The Italian Grandmothers Of Enoteca Maria



Synopsis

This beautiful collection of food and nostalgia features great traditions from the heart of Italy, with delicious recipes and colorful stories from the internationally celebrated grandmothers of Enoteca Maria—a one-of-a-kind Italian restaurant where a rotating cast of nonnas are the star chefs. Enoteca Maria takes great home cooking seriously. At this intimate, hospitable restaurant on Staten Island, all the cooking is done by ten nonnas (grandmothers), drawing on their own family recipes, handed down for generations, which reflect their regional traditions. Here are their delicious homemade pastas, risottos, desserts, and more, which have foodies from all over the world taking the ferry to the forgotten borough for an authentic taste of Italy. Beautiful full-color photography captures the fresh, distinctive flavors of these surprising dishes. Nonna Cristina shares her beautiful Risotto with Strawberries, Black Pepper, and Parmesan; Nonna Margherita offers delectable Stuffed Peppers with Pine Nuts and Raisins; and Nonna Teresa shows off her prize-winning Meat and Cheese Lasagna. Nonna Elvira whips up her peerless Linguine with Cuttlefish and Ink; Adelina creates a savory Tagliatelle with Pumpkin, Sausage, and Chestnuts; and Rosaria makes handmade Spaghetti alla Chitarra with Cherry Tomatoes and Porcini Mushrooms. Nonna Carmelina shares her classic Potato Pie with Ham, Salami, and Mozzarella; Rosa confides her nonna's secret recipe for Rabbit with Sage; and Nina sautés Chicken alla Capricciosa, with prosciutto and mushrooms. Nonna Francesca launches the book with advice on the time-honored art of preserving everything from olives to soppressata. With its utterly delicious tastes of grandmother's kitchen, Nonna's House is a legacy of flavors passed down through generations, now captured here forever. Restaurant founder Jody Scaravella says it best: "If I have a choice between a three-star Michelin chef's restaurant and Grandma's, I'm going to Grandma's. I'm going to the source."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The subtitle of this book explains what it is: *Cooking and Reminiscing with the Italian Grandmothers of Enoteca Maria*. Don't know this New York restaurant? "Enoteca Maria takes great home cooking seriously. At this intimate, hospitable restaurant on Staten Island, all the cooking is done by ten nonnas (grandmothers), drawing on their own family recipes, handed down for generations, which reflect their regional traditions." There are apartments and houses to rent in Italy that include the services of an Italian grandmother to cook your meals. The restaurateur was seemingly not inspired by that to create his restaurant. He explains in the book how it came about. He was: "...looking for authenticity, to preserve vanishing traditions." The Italian grandmothers come from diverse Italian regions, and their local specialties are respected, as can be seen in the mix of recipes in this cookbook/memoirs. The restaurant aims to feel the primal connection between food and family, so the recipes are original family fare. I have to say that I found the memoirs parts of the book more interesting than the recipes, which are wonderful. But there are hundreds (thousands?!) of Italian cookbooks in print, each with sections mirroring this cookbook's from appetizers to desserts. However, life stories of Italian grandmothers are a rarer read. That is what we get in most of the memoirs sections about the grandmothers who cook at Enoteca Maria (named for the restaurateur's grandmother), life stories of real personalities, real people. Most fascinating to me is how moving to America freed these women from stifling Italian convention. They all express joy in being able to follow their culinary instincts to experiment with timeworn recipes. They take advantage of time-saving kitchen equipment. They improvise with seasonal ingredients. They cook for pleasure, as a creative outlet. On top of all that, they recognize the liberation they enjoy in America, the freedom to earn a living, to divorce, to bring up their children as they see fit, to socialize and to embrace the excitement of living near New York City. And all of the grandmothers, most of whom have had very difficult childhoods, embrace the convenience of American living, and the social freedom. Please visit my full and illustrated review at [Italophile Book Reviews](#). I received a review-copy.

My God, before going to bed tonight I picked up *Nonna's House* and couldn't put it down to then find

myself in the kitchen cooking FRESH BASIL SAUCE on page 110, DELICIOUS!!!!, then on to MY NONNA'S TOMATO AND EGGPLANT SAUCE on page 111, EXQUISITE!!!! I was reading and cooking until four in the morning. Signor Scaravella you have presented a masterpiece/treasury of recipes, defiantly not the average Italian cookbook with a rehash of the usual recipes; you've presented a compendium of home style recipe being put in print for the first time. Bravo!! I have 3500 cookbooks in my library, most Italian, some from the States, some from Italy, others from other countries, I have a shelf for special stellar cookbooks, about ten, this book will be on that shelf!!! I'm to order another copy for my nephew and his wife who are newly married. Grazie Signor Scaravella, grazie!!!! ~~Gian Banchemo, Berkeley, California

I completely enjoyed reading the stories as I ate the food. These nonnas bring old Italy into 21st Century America through both, just as a writer who is also an illustrator shares his or her view of the world. Nonna Carmelina Picca, whose husband Pasquale was required, by the FBI, to serve in Korea, shares her tale of intrigue, along with the recipe for the best artichoke I have ever eaten in my entire life! I look forward to many more historical and culinary experiences through the work of these amazing ladies!

I purchased this book as gift for my sister and I ended up reading a good portion of it before wrapping it up and giving it to her! We actually visited Enoteca Maria this past summer when Nonna Carmelina was cooking and we were delighted by the homestyle charm of the place. I immediately decided to purchase the cookbook for my sister since she's a chef and appreciates different styles of cooking. The Nonnas' stories are an added bonus to the delicious-looking recipes.

I just received this book and already can not put it down. It has authentic recipes and real stories of real Nonnas who make real food from their own families regional traditions. Can't wait to cook most of these recipes.

Amazing recipes!!! It's like sitting with my nonna!! Beautiful photos, and the nonna stories are something special. This book will not just go on a shelf; it will have a place of honor in my kitchen!

Down to earth, informative reading, and wonderful recipes. The simple made profound with regard to culinary Italian delights.

I saw this cook book in Parade magazine and ordered it. We will add it to our collection of cook books and will get around to trying the recipes. Gotta be careful though it is easy to collect your self out of a place to live!

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