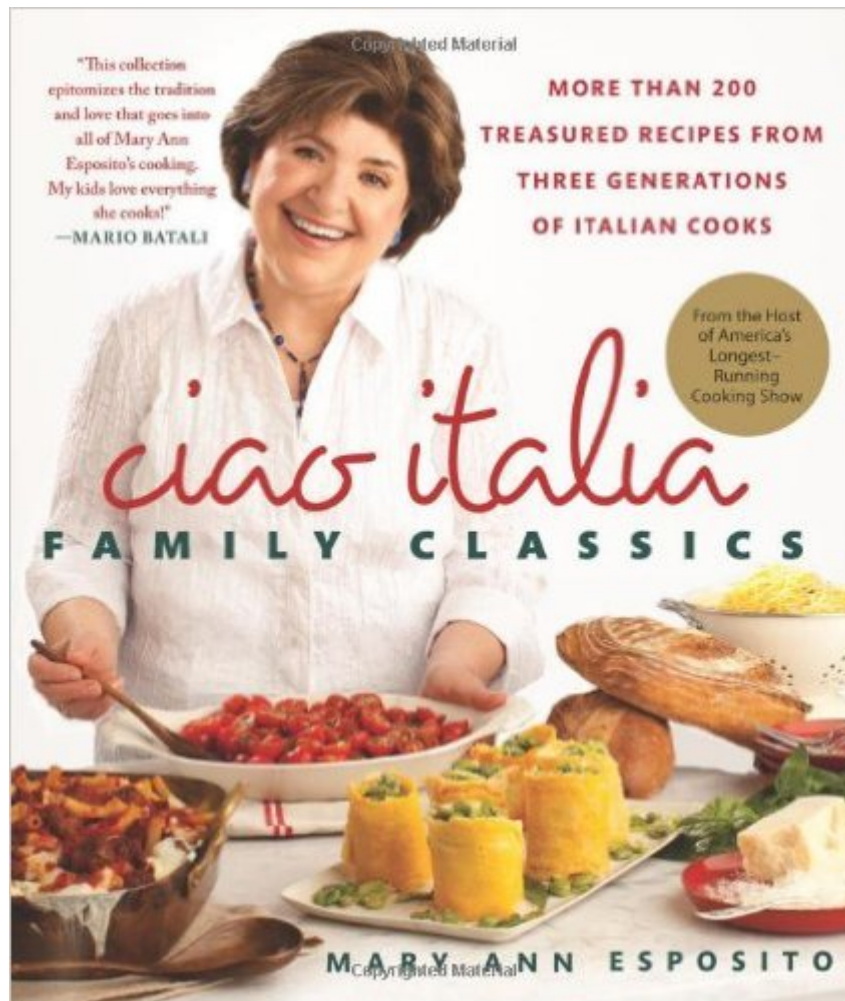


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# Ciao Italia Family Classics: More Than 200 Treasured Recipes From Three Generations Of Italian Cooks



## Synopsis

A beautifully conceived cookbook representing the best of Italian cooking brought to us by the trusted host of the longest-running television cooking show in America On Ciao Italia, which has been airing on PBS for more than twenty years, Mary Ann Esposito has taught millions of fans how to cook delicious, authentic Italian dishes. In her previous books, she has shown us how to make a quick meal with just five ingredients, helped us get dinner on the table in just thirty minutes, and encouraged us to slow down and take it easy in the kitchen while re-creating the rich aromas of Italy. Now Mary Ann returns to her family's humble beginnings to bring us a treasure trove of more than 200 time-honored recipes. They represent traditional, everyday foods that she regards as culinary royalty—always admired, respected, and passed down through generations. Even better, they are easy to make and guaranteed to please. You'll be dog-eared the pages to try such classics as: Sicilian Rice Balls- Spaghetti with Tuna, Capers, and Lemon- Risotto with Dried Porcini Mushrooms- Lasagna Verdi Bologna Style- Homemade Italian Sweet Sausage- Veal Cutlet Sorrento Style- Roasted Sea Bass with Fennel, Oranges, and Olives - Almond Cheesecake- Orange-Scented Madeleines Georgeously designed with appetizing full-color photographs of recipes and homespun essays about Italian cooking and family traditions throughout, Ciao Italia Family Classics will have fans old and new pulling it off the shelf again and again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm not of Italian descent but grew up in Connecticut with a large Italian immigrant population. We had access to Italian import grocery stores and family run restaurants were everywhere. I married

an Italian American man who loves to cook so my exposure expanded and I began to cook more and more Italian "slow food" at home. When I moved to Texas last year I realized I'd taken access to these foods for granted now that I have a hard time finding high quality ingredients and imported Italian foods. I can't even find decent restaurants that make authentic type Italian food or even a decent pizza. So we're cooking slow food at home now more than ever before. My first impression of this cookbook was one of familiarity, because it has over two dozen recipes that our family already enjoys eating at home or in favorite Italian restaurants. Now that we have the recipes we can make these at home. The other 150 recipes are new to me and I can't wait to go through the book and try some. Esposito explains that some recipes are from her grandmothers, some are newer recipes served at gourmet restaurants in Italy and some are her own creations using classic Italian ingredients. I want to stress the word classic that's in the title. There is a whole chapter on pastas and another on sauces, a chapter on bread and pizza, and I'm thrilled to have a chapter on risotto. In the Introduction she mentions family dinners served in courses and eaten leisurely over multiple hours' time. The recipes in the book are meant for this purpose, so it starts with antipasti and then goes through the courses: soup, bread/pizza, pasta and sauces, rice, fish, meat, vegetables, salads then desserts.

I was so excited to receive this book that I didn't wait very long to start cooking. First of all, I really enjoy the family stories that Mary Ann writes. I felt so connected that it invited me to cook these classic meals. As I flipped the pages, I began to mark the recipes of the pictures that looked delicious. My family was anxiously waiting for the first attempt. I have put together a video with pictures of the 12 recipes that I tried. In the video I only show the meal and page so here are the notes to each one of them. They appear in the order cooked.

- Spinach Pasta: Very easy to make. Very pretty color and delicious. The picture shows different shapes of pasta. I hope it is clear on how much it yields. I set the book just behind it to have a perspective on size.
- Cheese cylinders: Probably my favorite antipasti ever! They were absolutely delicious. The flavor of the marinated beans combines so perfectly with the cheese. I have to say that the amount is a bit too big for one. Teen daughter and I shared one. Another side note is that the recipe is not written correctly. It states that you need 2 ½ cups of cheese, then use ½ cup to make the first cheese cylinder. After that it says: "make 5 more". The total should make 6 cylinders, uh? I know it's not a big deal but you need to be sure you have the right amount of cheese. I was afraid to burn the cheese so I took it off the skillet a bit too soon. I'll brown it a bit more next time.
- WW Spaghetti with tuna: Nice and filling. The recipe calls for 4 oz of pasta per person. That's too much for us. Most of us in our family can

only eat 2 oz and even my husband only eats 3 oz if the pasta is our main dish. The flavor is very good though.

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