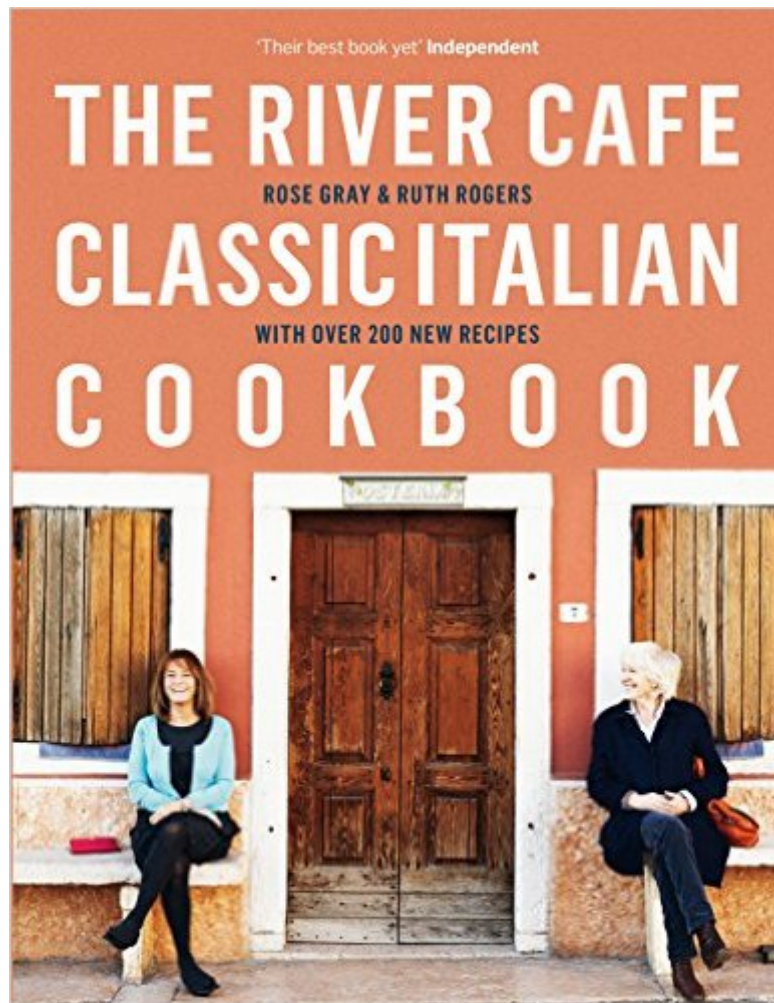


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# The River Cafe Classic Italian Cookbook



## Synopsis

'Most of what we have learnt has been from Italians who we've cooked side by side with. With this book, we want you to cook side by side with us' - Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers. Over the last twenty years, Rose and Ruth have both visited Italy time and again and during these visits have learned the many different subtleties that appear in dishes from the different, and very diverse, regions of the country. They have cooked alongside mothers, grandmothers, cousins and wine makers who have shared their family recipes. This book is Rose and Ruth's personal interpretation of these recipes. It's a celebration of the real, classic food of Italy; the traditional, regional food they both love to eat when they are in Italy, and the food they love to cook at their restaurant and also at home. The precious recipes that they have become well known for, as well as the ones that are cooked less and less in Italy these days.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This book offers a great range of Italian classics, but is a bit more modern in its collection. By that I mean the classics are interspersed with "typical" Italian preparations, mainly Tuscan. It goes beyond the sampling of dishes that a one time traveler may know and gets into the boiled octopus with potatoes, penne con stracotto (penne with beef braised in Chianti), and roast guinea fowl stuffed with lemons. That is to say, it gets into what you might find on the table for lunch on a Sunday afternoon at your Italian mother-in-law's house. Of enthusiastic note, this has a section on gelato (gelato al gianduiotto anyone?) and desserts including strudel, panettone, and ricciarelli the Siennese almond meringue! The photography in the book comes from a wide range of photographers, all of whom are among the best in the business. That may also be why it seems like

such a hodgepodge of photography. The lack of a cohesive art direction therefore to me detracts a LOT from an otherwise blemish-free book. This is why I can't give it five stars. For me, aesthetics have a great influence on a cookbook, so I believe the job should either be on the ball or not at all. (It's not a complete disaster, don't get me wrong! It's just mildly annoying. I still love the book and still HIGHLY recommend it!) This book is for someone who wants a solid reference of Italian cooking, home style.

I LOVED THE BOOK, ESPECIALLY THE PHOTOS AND THE PERSONAL DIALOGUE ABOUT THE CHEFS AND RESTAURANTS IN ITALY. THE INGREDIENTS ARE A LITTLE HARD TO GET WHERE I LIVE IN TEXAS, BUT WHEN I AM BACK IN ITALY I WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME OF THE MORE UNUSUAL DISHES. I HAVE MADE THE CROSTINI, REALLY GOOD, AND THE POLENTA.

This was a gift to my sister and her husband. They were both delighted with it.

First of all, this is an incredibly beautiful book. The photographs of the food, Italy, the people and the two authors Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers that accompany the recipes are great. I've already cooked a few of the dishes and what you see is what you get. I've got all the River Cafe books and this is the best because it puts you in Italy side by side with the cooks, the vintners, the restaurant owners, the farmers and cheese-makers. It's amazingly easy to use - the recipes are clear and uncomplicated. If you stay true to Rose and Ruthie's ingredients you can't go wrong.

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