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# Aperitivo: The Cocktail Culture Of Italy



## Synopsis

Kick off the evening as the Italians do, with these recipes for drinks and small dishes from the best bars and restaurants of Venice, Milan, Turin, and beyond. *Aperitivo* takes the reader on a spirited ride through this cocktail culture, covering variations on all the classics including the Negroni, the Bellini, and the spritz and stopping at the chicest bars that have elevated this ritual to an art form. Many of the drinks are structured around vermouths and other botanical-infused liqueurs, which offer a new world of complex flavors. They yield enticingly simple cocktails that refresh without stunning the palate (thanks to a lighter alcohol content). But *Aperitivo* is just as much about the food because in Italy, drinking and eating go hand in hand. Recipes feature fried sage leaves, oven-roasted eggplant, and carbonara tramezzini, as well as many delicious riffs on crostini, frittata, and focaccia. Whether planning a party or just having a friend over for a quick drink, *Aperitivo* brings a whole new spirit of conviviality and true Italian style to the occasion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Marisa Huff’s delightful book captures the simple joy of delicious Italian aperitivi and the snacks that are paired with them. An easy-to-use guide to living la dolce vita.”  
—Mario Batali, chef, restaurateur, entrepreneur  
“Marisa Huff explores the eccentricities that differentiate the culture, history, and ingredients of Italy’s regional aperitivi in concise, expertly written recipes that showcase her mastery of a subject that lacked a credible American perspective until now. In addition to being the most useful cookbook in my bar, *Aperitivo* is

the most valuable collection of canonical Italian cocktails in print today. —Jim Meehan, author of *The PDT Cocktail Book* —“Part insider travel guide, part party planner, part intrepid recipe resource, Marisa Huff’s *Aperitivo* is the ultimate handbook to inspired Italian entertaining. It’s stylish and sophisticated, and, just like the cocktails that fill its pages, it whets your appetite for more! —Gail Simmons, food expert, TV host, and author of *Talking with My Mouth Full* —“Marisa Huff has brilliantly curated and adapted drinks —as well as savory small bites —from many of the best aperitivo spots in Italy. An inspiring combination of recipes and superb instruction, this book expertly conveys why the Italian aperitivo as an experience is so much greater than the sum of its parts. —Joe Bastianich, restaurateur, TV host, and author of *Restaurant Man* “You’ve heard of armchair traveler guidebooks. Well, this inspiring, la-dolce-vita volume is more of a bar-chair travel guidebook. Think a travelogue of Italy’s Happy Hour. . . [Aperitivo] allures readers page by glossy page through a spirited tour of Italy’s top regional and urban drinking destinations - from Turin to Venice, from Milan to Rome, and plenty ‘farther afield’ establishments in between.” —AMBASSADOR MAGAZINE “Part cookbook and part cocktail book, *Aperitivo* is a beautifully photographed, city-by-city look at that all-important sliver of time between work and dinnertime and the culture of drinking that has proliferated within it.” —PUNCH MAGAZINE “This book is a delight. This book is important. And, if you love Italian food, this is the book you have to own, read, use, and tote on that next trip to Italy. Getting through life gracefully involves just a few things — money and love aside. You need exactly three things: some good food, delightful beverages, and a guiding principal. Happily those three are here in the pages of *Aperitivo*.” —THE HUFFINGTON POST

Marisa Huff is a James Beard-nominated writer whose work has appeared in *La Cucina Italiana*, *Wine & Spirits*, and *The Art of Eating*. She lives in Padua with her husband. Joe Bastianich is an American restaurateur, TV personality, and author of *Restaurant Man*. He is the coowner of the Batali & Bastianich Hospitality Group as well as Eataly throughout the Americas. Andrea Fazzari is an international photographer who specializes in portraiture, travel, and the culinary world. Her work has appeared in *Travel + Leisure*, *Departures*, and *Saveur*. A seasoned world-traveler and consultant, she resides in Tokyo.

This is not simply a collection of recipes or cocktails, but a beautiful exploration of the aperitivo culture in Italy. This book encompasses everything so appealing about Italian aperitivo culture. The uncomplicated recipes for snacks are the perfect compliment to the simple and refreshing drinks to

enjoy before dinner. The book is brilliantly divided into cities which vary slightly in their exploration of Italy's aperitivo culture. Let this wonderful book be your guide to the Italian aperitivo culture! Cheers!

This book inspires me to create Aperitivo for friends and clients. Growing up in a Brooklyn-Italian family late summer afternoons serving vegetable dishes fresh from the garden and A&S Pork Store cheeses, olives and Italian meats with cocktails created cherished memories. *Aperitivo: The Cocktail Culture of Italy* beautifully captures the spirit of the incredible flavors and pairings of an Italian cocktail culture. It's a Classic! This book will go right next to *Ada Boni* when I'm not using it.

Such a beautiful book, with wonderful recipes and photography! Love how the book has been organized, taking us on this journey through Italy through the cocktail culture (my favorite time of the day!). I appreciated learning more about some of the liquors that I've been drinking for years (and didn't know much about), but now have new ways to enjoy them and pair these drinks with delicious bites. I'm excited to explore more recipes in this book and now I'm even more inspired/intrigued to go to Italy!

I am only giving this four stars because this was a gift and I haven't had the opportunity to do more than thumb through it. I gave it as a housewarming gift to friends who entertain a lot and are Italophiles. They were delighted! I also put it on my own wish list.

As other reviews state, and true to the Italian character, this book is very balanced - maybe even more about food than drink. I have enjoyed both - and some of the truly Italian drink concoctions are just so simple, so ordinary in ingredient, and so Italian in taste. Wonderful! and I'm Irish...

Beautiful book with wonderful recipes that are not ordinary. Beautiful photos. Excellent explanations of ingredients and suggestions for substitutes for expensive ingredients. A very special book. So helpful to have a book with recipes for drinks and small dishes. Takes out the guess work. Guests will be very impressed with the drinks and the small dishes. Would make a very special gift for any host or hostess.

What a lovely and educational book *Aperitivo* is. I enjoyed reading every page and felt like I was in Italy. The recipes are well laid out and easy for this non-cook to prepare. Making a recipe and a

cocktail from this book will certainly impress your friends.

Great regional recipes. My husband is Italian and even he learned something about making eggplant balls and other Italian appetizers. Easy to read and Easy to follow the recipes. We are enjoying it!

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