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Walks of New York's Mario Batali Greenwich Village Tour



By Akila McConnell
Food Travel Expert

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Batali Walks of New York Tour. Walks of New York

of Batali's popular restaurants, including the acclaimed Babbo.

Jason Spiehler, co-owner of Walks of New York, explained that they created the Mario Batali tour partly because of their extensive experience in Italian food and culture through their Walks of Italy tours. Jason said, "When we began creating itineraries for New York, we were attracted to Chef Batali as a leading figure in the 'Italian food' space, for the quality of his restaurants and deep knowledge of the Italian culinary tradition. Like us, he spent many formative years working and living in Italy." Chef Batali and his team worked with Walks of New York to develop the tastings, themes, and discussion points on the tour.

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Talk about fun and foodie-licious. New tour company [Walks of New York](#) --- an offshoot of the very popular [Walks of Italy](#) --- is offering a [Mario Batali inspired walking tour](#), built in conjunction with the celebrity chef. The tour is centered in Greenwich Village, home to several

The tour is designed to follow the course of an ordinary Italian meal, with tastings of antipasti, oils and breads, entrees, and dessert. Guides will include descriptions and information about Greenwich Village, as well as background on Mario Batali's philosophy and food culture. Batali particularly emphasizes the importance of seasonality and quality in his ingredients. He has said, "Shop often, shop hard, and spend for the best stuff available - logic dictates that you can make delicious food only with delicious ingredients." Of course, Chef Batali is a busy man but Spiehler hopes

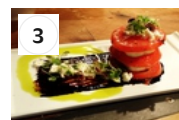
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that he may make a few guest appearances.

The tour begins with a sampling of antipasti, including cheeses, salami, and bruschetta, at [Otto Pizzeria](#) and, then, continues on to visit some of the chef's favorite Italian producers and grocers

including: Raffetto's, a pasta making factory; O & Co., an olive oil and balsamic vinegar purveyor; and the famous Italian deli Faicco's. The tour stops in at [Lupa](#) to try Batali's signature ricotta gnocchi and then to Grom for gelato. Kirsten Alana, a guide for Walks of New York, explained that the tour has a perfect balance of both history and delicious food, and, even New York locals will appreciate the in-depth look at lesser known Italian stores.

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Stories" where guests will try bialy, a Polish food similar to a bagel, at the city's oldest bialy bakery, and the Lower East Side's last remaining pickle stand where kosher pickles are made according to traditional methods under the supervision of a local rabbi.

The Batali Greenwich Village tour is offered three days per week beginning in September 2014 and costs \$64 per person, which includes all of the tastings.

The company is working with Chef Batali to build another itinerary incorporating Eataly and the Grammercy neighborhood, to be rolled out in the near future.

Walks of New York offer one other food-oriented tour titled "Lower East Side

The other Walks of New York tours are the:

- B&H New York Photography Tour:
- High Line, Meatpacking, Chelsea Market;
- Broadway: Behind the Scenes;
- Meet the Met: Highlights of the Metropolitan Museum of Art;
- Highlights of New York Tour: Times Square, Rockefeller Center, Grand Central;
- Express Access: Empire State Building Tour and Skyscraper Walk.

For more information, see the [Walks of New York website](#).

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