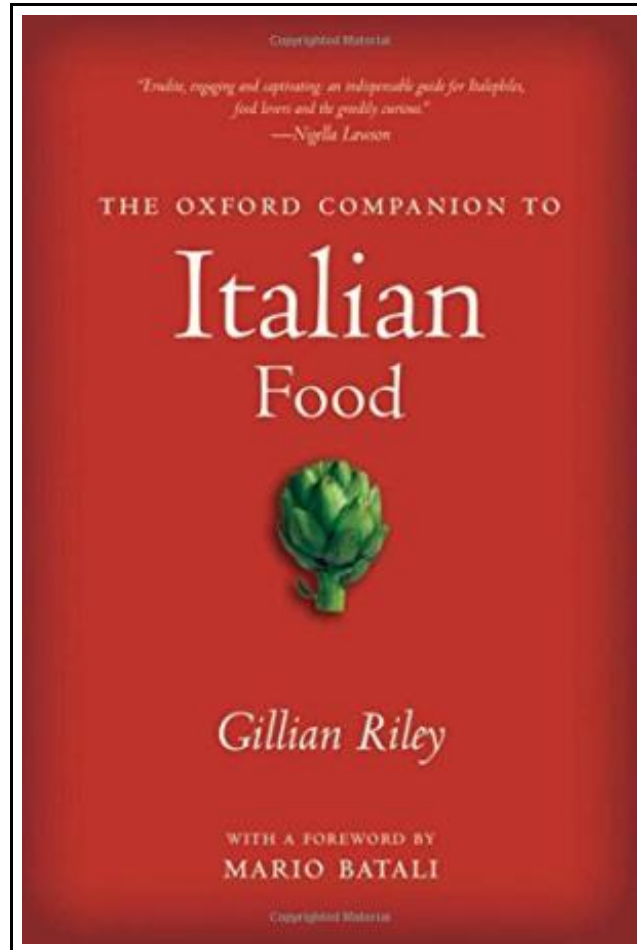


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Oxford University Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 672 pages. Dimensions: 9.3in. x 6.5in. x 1.8in. Here is an inspiring, wide-ranging A-Z guide to one of the world's best-loved cuisines. Designed for cooks and consumers alike, *The Oxford Companion to Italian Food* covers all aspects of the history and culture of Italian gastronomy, from dishes, ingredients, and delicacies to cooking methods and implements, regional specialties, the universal appeal of Italian cuisine, influences from outside Italy, and much more. Following in the footsteps of princes and popes, vagabond artists and cunning peasants, austere scholars and generations of unknown, unremembered women who shaped pasta, moulded cheeses and lovingly tended their cooking pots, Gillian Riley celebrates a heritage of amazing richness and delight. She brings equal measures of enthusiasm and expertise to her writing, and her entries read like mini-essays, laced with wit and gastronomical erudition, marked throughout by descriptive brilliance, and entirely free of the pompous tone that afflicts so much writing about food. The Companion is attentive to both tradition and innovation in Italian cooking, and covers an extraordinary range of information, from *Anonimo Toscano*, a medieval cookbook, to Bartolomeo Bimbi, a Florentine painter commissioned by Cosimo de' Medici to paint portraits of vegetables, to Paglierina di Riferredo, a young cheese made of unskimmed cows' milk, to *zuppa inglese*, a dessert invented by 19th-century Neapolitan pastry chefs. Major topics receive extended treatment. The entry for Parmesan, for example, runs to more than 2,000 words and includes information on its remarkable nutritional value, the region where it is produced, the breed of cow used to produce it (the *razza reggiana*, or *vacche rosse*), the role of the cheese maker, the origin of its name, Molire's deathbed demand for it, its frequent and lustrous depiction in 16th and 17th-century paintings, and...

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