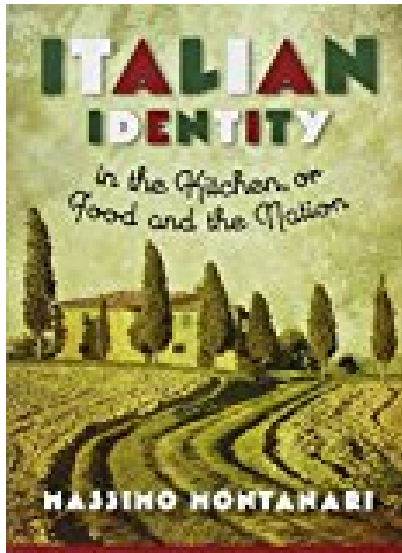


# Italian Identity in the Kitchen or Food and the Nation

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## BOOK DETAILS

- Author : Massimo Montanari
- Pages : 106 Pages
- Publisher : Columbia University Press
- Language : English
- ISBN : 0231160844

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## **BOOK SYNOPSIS**

Massimo Montanari draws readers into the far-flung story of how local and global influences came to flavor Italian identity. The fusion of ancient Roman cuisine -- which consisted of bread, wine, and olives -- with the barbarian diet -- rooted in bread, milk, and meat -- first formed the basics of modern eating across Europe. From there, Montanari highlights the importance of the Italian city in the development of gastronomic taste in the Middle Ages, the role of Arab traders in positioning the country as the supreme producers of pasta, and the nations healthful contribution of vegetables to the fifteenth-century European diet. Italy became a receiving country with the discovery of the New World, absorbing corn, potatoes, and tomatoes into its national cuisine. As disaster dispersed Italians in the nineteenth century, new immigrant stereotypes portraying Italians as "macaroni eaters" spread. However, two world wars and globalization renewed the perception of Italy and its culture as unique in the world, and the production of food constitutes an important part of that uniqueness.

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