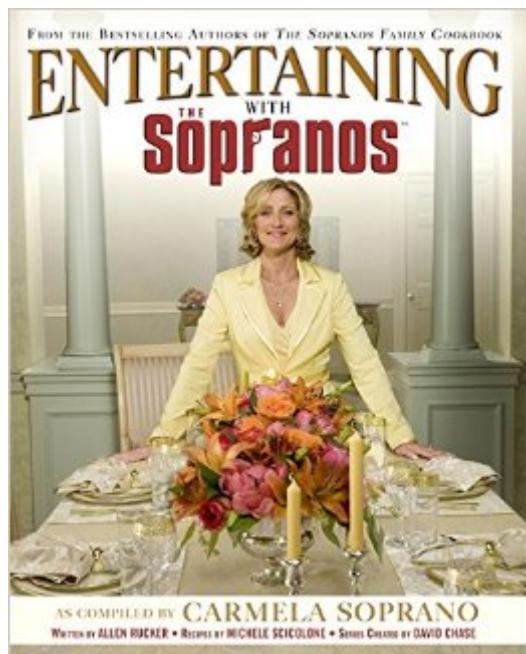


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Entertaining With The Sopranos



Synopsis

Fans of a certain multi-award-winning HBO® dramatic series and lovers of fine eating everywhere made The Sopranos Family Cookbook a runaway #1 bestseller, thanks to its intimate vignettes and delectable Old Country recipes. But that just got the party started. Now comes the ultimate guide to making every event the perfect occasion, served up by the Garden State's most gracious hostess, Carmela Soprano. From graduation parties to holiday gatherings to poolside barbecues, Carmela gives you everything you need to keep your personal crew as happy as a clam in red sauce: over 75 delicious new Neapolitan-based recipes as well as scores of Soprano-approved tips on picking the ideal location, choosing tasteful decorations, whipping up the best drinks, and selecting the right music. Sweetening the festa are dozens of never-seen illustrations and insightful commentaries from Soprano relatives and intimates. You'll find "AJ" Soprano's confirmation invitation, advice on "party anxiety" from therapist Dr. Jennifer Melfi, a term paper by Meadow Soprano on "Why My Grandmother Can't Cook," advice from family friend Paulie Walnuts on throwing a surprise party, and much, much more. Unsure about wine? Follow the advice of Artie Bucco, proprietor of the renowned Nuovo Vesuvio restaurant in Newark, New Jersey: "If you have steak, a 'big' meat dish, think of a 'big' red wine like a California Burgundy. I guess you could match it with a big white wine, too, but I don't know of any big white wines." Want to surprise with a birthday gift? Model yours after what Carmela plans on giving her husband, waste management executive Tony Soprano, on his fiftieth: a Dean Martin impersonator, an outdoor screening of his favorite film, *The Public Enemy*, starring James Cagney, and a monogrammed putter. (But no ritzy watch. He has a dozen of them.) Planning a wedding? Find inspiration in the vision of Carmela's sister-in-law, Janice Soprano Baccilieri: "As guests enter a cathedral of pines, they would pass an ancient wishing well where they could deposit small presents or deep thoughts about life and love. Ideally, I would love for the whole ceremony to be done in the nude, but unfortunately, the time for that kind of pagan openness has long passed." Flustered by funerals? Heed the wise suggestions for his own wake from Tony's Uncle Corrado "Junior" Soprano: "A lot of food, no crap, a lot of homemade Bucassi vino, a nice speech from Bobby Bacala, since he was always the nicest to me of all those bums, and me singing like Caruso on the Victrola." In Carmela's words: "What's closer to a celebration of life than celebrations? Look for them, jump into them, charger plates and all, and have a ball."

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Customer Reviews

I have been slowly collecting Michele Scicolone's cookbooks. She did the recipes in this and the previous Soprano family Cookbook. This is a cookbook author well worth collecting. Her recipes all seem explosion proof (our family meaning is that a recipe that you can tinker with according to what's currently available in your own kitchen and still turns out tasting superb). LOL that is not necessarily the kind of explosion proof that a mobster would mean. Other reasons Michele's recipes work are that they don't call for too many ingredients or expensive hard to find things. They all taste great and can tolerate substitutions without loss of quality. (see explosion proof above). Tonight's dinner is that peppered pork loin with broccoli. As for the TV series, never watched it, but I might, just from the engaging bits of humour in between the recipes. Last of all this book garnered a criticism that it had too few recipes. Not as far as I'm concerned. Lots of them, plenty with full colour illustration so you can see how it should look. In between the recipes and humour are actually some very good common sense guidelines and tips for such things as navigating family holidays and momentous events like weddings, funerals and christenings all from an Italian American Catholic perspective but easily flexing to other backgrounds. You don't have to be Italian American and Catholic to appreciate the sane advice on putting together a dinner party for 12 by Carmela and Charmaine or the reasoning behind making an effort at Christmas, Easter and other family religious celebrations. The personalities may not be that engaging.

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