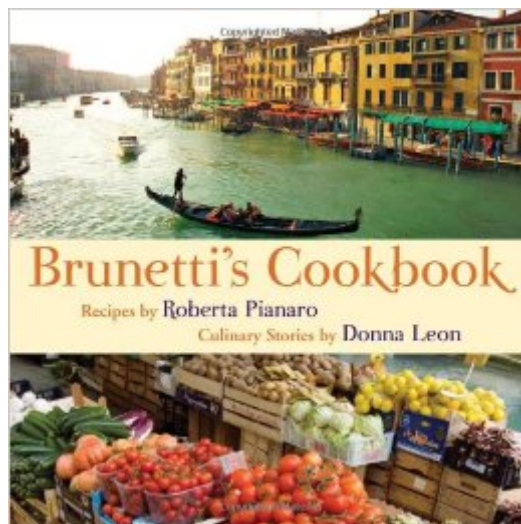


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Brunetti's Cookbook



Synopsis

Among their many pleasures, Donna Leon's Commissario Guido Brunetti novels have long been celebrated for their mouth-watering descriptions of food. Multicourse lunches at home with Paola and the children, snacks grabbed at a bar with a glass of wine or two, a quick sandwich during a busy day, or a working lunch at a neighborhood trattoria in the course of an investigation have all delighted Brunetti, as well as Leon's readers and reviewers. And then there's the coffee, the pastries, the wine, and the grappa. In Brunetti's Cookbook, Donna Leon's best friend and favorite cook brings to life these fabulous Venetian meals. Eggplant crostini, orrechiette with asparagus, pumpkin ravioli, roasted artichokes, baked branzino, pork ragu with porcini; these are just a few of the over ninety recipes for antipasti, primi, secondi, and dolci. The recipes are joined by excerpts from the novels, four-color illustrations, and six original essays by Donna Leon on food and life in Venice. Charming, insightful, and full of personality, they are the perfect addition to this long-awaited book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book will make interesting reading for many Commissario Brunetti/Donna Leon fans. The "eating" excerpts from Brunetti books and little Leon essays make nice scene-setters and the illustrations are charming. But as a book to actually cook from? Not so hot. As a former newspaper cookbook reviewer, I long ago came to appreciate the value of professional cookbook writers and

editors and (in the case of chefs' books) ghostwriters. While Ms. Leon's dear friend Roberta Pianaro is doubtless a superb Venetian cook, she clearly could have used some help from the cookbook-publishing pros in crafting a book useful to an international audience. A few examples of things that could have done with some Americanization in its English language edition: Considering the variations in size of onions, "Half a white onion, chopped" could mean anything from a teaspoon to a cupful. And 10 tablespoons of olive oil is easier to measure if you know that amounts to 3/4 of a cup and "4 tablespoons of stick butter" is half a stick if you buy sticks or 1/4 cup if you don't. And while I'm pretty sure "minced pork" is the British term for what we call "ground pork," I'm not at all sure what "mild bacon" is or how to "wash and press" raisins. A check of Google tells me that potato flour's virtue is that it delivers results that are more moist than other flours, but that the name is often confused here in the U.S. with "potato starch," which is something else entirely. Also thanks to Google, I now know that the Kaiser pear used here is what I know as a Bosc pear. I'm also wondering if American editors might not have been able to rejigger recipes so that they'd call for ingredients in amounts compatible with the measuring devices we use here in the U.S.

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