

For Immediate Release

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The Lost Ravioli Recipes of Hoboken: A Search for Food and Family

By Laura Schenone

A “marvelous family memoir.”
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"An elegant masterpiece about Schenone's complex and fascinating Italian heritage. This personal journey, woven together with delicious recipes framed by her family history, dazzles like the harbor of Portofino. This is a treat for anyone who is Italian American, and if you're not, when you finish this book, you'll wish you were."

—Adriana Trigiani, *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Big Stone Gap* series

“A triumph of culinary sleuthing that takes award-winning Laura Schenone deep into the interior of her ancestral Liguria in a quest for a grandmother's secret, but that takes her, unexpectedly, deep into the mysteries of the human heart.”

—Louise DeSalvo, author of *Crazy in the Kitchen*

“Who knew that pasta could be so transporting? In Laura Schenone's hands, it literally is, like a capacious ferryboat on the waters between past and present. She knows that food is more than biological nutrition: it is a way to understand who we are by investigating who we were. Read this with a big hunger, for panoramic story and glorious food both; finish it satisfied in every way.”

—Melissa Holbrook Pierson, author of *The Place You Love is Gone*

In *The Lost Ravioli Recipes of Hoboken: A Search for Food and Family*

(W.W. Norton & Company, November 5, 2007, \$26.95 Hardcover), award-winning food historian (and devoted cook) Laura Schenone, author of *A Thousand Years Over a Hot Stove*, turns her attention to her personal history, and tells the story of her intrepid search for an authentic family recipe.

Alienated by the warp speed of modern existence and longing for “an inner life where advertising cannot reach” Schenone embarks on a quest to discover what might be missing and turns to her food roots to see what might be enduring. She begins with the memory of an old, handcrafted, wooden ravioli press, which—long out of service—hung as decoration on the wall of her mother's kitchen. The press came from her father's side

of the family—a difficult side, wrought with betrayals and severed connections. Not to be deterred by physical or emotional distance, Schenone traces the ravioli tool, and family recipes, to elder members of her father’s family. These women, in their 80s, good-naturedly offer a version of her great-grandmother Adalgiza’s specialty that has clearly been Americanized—think Philadelphia cream cheese and frozen spinach.

Schenone decides to find the original. Her search for authenticity next leads to Liguria, and the hope of unlocking both the secrets of her great grandmother’s culinary legacy, and of her family’s history. There Schenone discovers a whole new lexicon of Italian tastes and flavors and, slowly uncovers a story of love and loss as well. Her obsession next leads her on a tour of the world’s dumplings where she discovers that nearly everywhere stuffed dumplings are the food of happy times and family celebrations.

In keen and vivid detail, Schenone conjures up the luscious and widely unfamiliar tastes of traditional Ligurian cooking—from the creamy tang of prescinseua cheese (perhaps the real, Italian ancestor of Philadelphia cream cheese), to rich, earthy pasta made with fresh chestnut flour. Along with its lyrical language, this remarkable book is also illustrated with exquisite black and white photographs showcasing Schenone’s ancestors, the beauty of the Ligurian hills, the various tools of the ravioli-making trade, and the skilled hands at work crafting fresh pasta dishes. In addition, the book features comprehensive, easy to follow instructions on rolling your own pasta (for exploratory cooks everywhere), as well as simpler recipes for pasta and other favorite Genoese dishes.

A celebration of family, memory, and the redemptive power of food, **The Lost Ravioli Recipes of Hoboken** is as enchanting as it is satisfying.

Learn more about the author on her website at www.lostravioli.com.

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