



New Hampshire's very own Mary Ann Esposito has made a name for herself in the cooking world with her acclaimed PBS show "Ciao Italia" and numerous cookbooks. She will be coming to Conway on April 15. (JOHN W. HESSION PHOTO)

## 'Ciao Italia' host coming to the Majestic Theatre

CONWAY — Mary Ann Esposito, creator and host of the acclaimed PBS cooking show "Ciao Italia," will appear at the Majestic Theatre in Conway on April 15 to speak in support of her most recent cookbook, "Ciao

Italia: Plant. Harvest. Cook!" Esposito is also celebrating the 30th year of production for "Ciao Italia,"

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making it America's longest-running TV cooking series.

Esposito's April 15 appearance at the Majestic is being sponsored by the Mountain Garden Club. Doors will open at 10 a.m. with Esposito's talk beginning at 11.

If purchased by March 25, tickets will include a copy of "Ciao Italia: Plant. Harvest. Cook!" (a \$40 value).

Tickets are \$35 for a single admission (plus one cookbook) or \$55 for admission for two + one cookbook. To purchase tickets or for more information, go to [majestictheater.org](http://majestictheater.org).

In order for admission to include the cookbook, tickets must be purchased by March 25.

According to a biography on Wikipedia, Esposito was born and raised in Buffalo, N.Y., and now lives in Durham. It said that after her mother sent her a pasta maker in 1979, it ignited an interest in Italian cooking. She taught herself how to use it and the fol-

lowing year, she and her husband Guy, visited Italy, where she attended a cooking school.

At the University of New Hampshire, Wikipedia says, Esposito took classes to learn Italian. By 1985, she had joined the history master's program at the university, writing her thesis about Italian Renaissance cooking.

In addition, Johnson and Wales University presented her with their Distinguished Author Award. She also received an honorary doctorate from St. Anselm College for her dedication to teaching and preserving authentic Italian cuisine.

Through "Ciao Italia" and appearances on such national shows as "The Today Show," and "The Victory Garden" and on the Food Network, Discovery Channel and many channels, Esposito has been sharing traditional Italian cooking, history and culture with audiences around the world. She has worked beside world-renowned chefs like Julia Child and Jacques Pepin.

Numerous organizations have recognized Esposito for

her efforts to preserve the traditions surrounding Italian regional food and culture. She received the Order of the Star of Italy Cavaliere award from the president of the Italian Republic as well as the Premio Artusi award for her work in promoting Italian food. The Italian Trade Commission further distinguished her by naming her a Hall of Fame honoree. The Order of Sons of Italy in America honored her with a Lifetime Achievement Award as part of the Culinary & Cultural Arts of Italy.

The Mary Ann Esposito Foundation was created to help culinary students achieve their goals. Recently, the Foundation announced the creation of the Rebecca Alssid Award, named for the founder of the culinary arts program at Boston University.

This award is presented to qualifying students who are part of the gastronomy and culinary arts program. Esposito also teaches an online credit course at Boston University's Metropolitan Campus and has been part of the Seminar in the Arts program for close to 30 years.