

THE CLASSIC CUISINE OF THE ITALIAN JEWS II pdf

1: BOOKS | SEPHARDIC FOOD

The Classic Cuisine of the Italian Jews by Edda Servi Machlin -- Jeanne Lesem, UPI, Herald American, Dec 6, The Classic Cuisine of the Italian Jews deserves to be found in the home of every chef and cook and in use by every Jew.

Jews arrived long before the Christians, however. Jewish traders built one of the first synagogues in Ostia Antica an area just outside of present day Rome during the second century BC. With time the Jewish population grew and swelled and historians have calculated that by the reign of Tiberius AD , there were more than 50, Jews living in Rome and dozens of Jewish communities scattered throughout the Roman territory. Like their fellow countrymen, Italian Jews suffered through thousands of years of invasions that followed the fall of the Roman Empire, but they managed to live fairly peacefully almost everywhere " from Venice, where the Isola della Giudecca across the canal from Piazza San Marco is so named because it was the home of many Jews, to the Arab lands of south Italy. At least until , when the Spaniards drove the Arabs back across the Mediterranean Sea into Africa and turned the liberated territories of Sicily and Southern Italy over to the Inquisition. Southern Italian Jews fled north to more tolerant regions, where they were joined by Jews from other parts of Europe as well. Florence, Torino, Mantova and Bologna all had strong Jewish communities during the renaissance. Edda Servi Machlin, whose father was the Rabbi in the Tuscan town of Pitigliano, joined the partisans in the hills when Italy surrendered to the Nazis in . After the war, she settled in the United States and raised a family. Through the years, she has lectured widely on Italian Jewish life and gathered her recollections of life and cuisine into a book titled, *The Classic Cuisine of the Italian Jews*. The Jewish people celebrate Passover as a commemoration of their liberation over 3, years ago from slavery in ancient Egypt. When the Pharaoh freed the Israelites, it is said that they left in such a hurry that they could not wait for bread dough to rise. Matzo flat unleavened bread is a symbol of the holiday. Other scholars teach that in the time of the Exodus, matzo was commonly baked for the purpose of traveling because it did not spoil and was light to carry, suggesting that matzo was baked intentionally for the long journey ahead. The table is set with the finest china and silverware to reflect the importance of the meal. During this meal, the story of the Exodus from Egypt is retold using a special text called the Haggadah. The Passover seder is one of the great traditions of the Jewish faith, but it can also be a test of endurance. As the premeal chants and readings stretch on, empty stomachs growl and attention wanes until the moment when the charoset is passed around. One of the most revered of Jewish dishes, it closes the ceremony and begins the feast. Because Passover celebrates freedom, a small amount of charoset is placed on the seder plate as a reminder to Jews that they were once slaves and they should not take their freedom for granted. Recipes for charoset are as many as there are Jewish people. Italian varieties vary from family to family, including everything from almonds, apples and pears to chestnuts, oranges and even hard-boiled eggs.

2: The Classic Cuisine of the Italian Jews II (October 15, edition) | Open Library

In "The Classic Cuisine of the Italian Jews II," Edda Servi Machlin provides vivid descriptions of the daily life of the once-flourishing Jewish community of Pitigliano in Italy's Tuscan hills. Accompanying the more than recipes is a rich treasury of the history, lore, and cultural and religious traditions of this thousand-year-old village.

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