

Mario Batali

Biography

Raised in Seattle, Mario Batali studied briefly at Le Cordon Bleu in London, followed by an apprenticeship with London's legendary chef Marco Pierre White and three years of intense culinary training in the tiny Northern Italian village of Borgo Capanne. He returned to the U.S. and in 1998 opened his now legendary New York City restaurant, Babbo Ristorante e Enoteca, which was honored as "The Best New Restaurant of 1998" by The James Beard Foundation and awarded three stars by Ruth Reichl. Six years later, a re-review by *The New York Times'* Food Critic, Frank Bruni, maintained Babbo's three-star power and its excellence among New York City's finest restaurants.

Today he and his partners own several other renowned restaurants in New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas. A new steakhouse – Carnevino – is scheduled to open in January 2008 in the Palazzo hotel in Las Vegas, adjacent to the Venetian Hotel Casino.

Mario also engages in fierce culinary battles on the Food Network series "Iron Chef America." Next Fall, his new PBS series with co-stars Mark Bittman and Gwyneth Paltrow will air. "Spain On the Road Again" will follow the threesome's adventures as they travel and eat their way through Spain. Mario has also authored numerous books, including *Simple Italian Food* (Clarkson Potter, 1998); *Mario Batali Holiday Food* (Clarkson Potter, 2000); *The Babbo Cookbook* (Clarkson Potter, 2002); *Molto Italiano: 327 Simple Italian Recipes* (Ecco, 2005), and *Mario Tailgates NASCAR Style* (*The Sporting News* 2006). Mario's upcoming cookbook and grilling handbook – *Mario Batali – Italian Grilling* (Ecco, 2008), takes the mystery out of making tasty, authentic, smoky Italian food.

In 2002 Mario won the James Beard Foundation's "Best Chef: New York City" award, and in 2005 the James Beard Foundation awarded Mario "Outstanding Chef of the Year."

Mario splits his time between New York City's Greenwich Village and Northern Michigan with his wife Susi Cahn of Coach Dairy Goat Farm and their two sons.