

Giada de Laurentiis's 7 Favorite Eateries in Rome



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For 46-year-old chef and TV personality [Giada de Laurentiis](#), Rome is more than a birthplace. "My mother, uncle and cousins still live there," she explains. "And it's where a lot of my inspiration comes from... My first cooking memories are when I was five-years-old, making pizza in the outdoor oven at my grandmother's house."

De Laurentiis—who lives in Los Angeles filming her *Food Network* show, "[Giada at Home](#)"—still considers Rome "her second home." She crosses the Atlantic at least once or twice each year, spending time with her loving family and exploring the metropolis's sprawling food scene.



"[Rome] is such a bustling city... in many ways similar to New York," she says. "But then there are all these other components layered in with the modern city—the history, the ancient ruins, the immense culture. It's a juxtaposition that exists in few other places."

So, when de Laurentiis *does* take a vacation from her busy schedule, chances are you'll find her in Rome—probably at one of these seven eateries. From an age-old gelato shop to a leaf-covered canopy, this is where she reconnects with not only her family, but also her Italian culture.



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1. Al Moro:

This is *the* place to go in Rome—somewhere I usually visit with my entire family. We always sit in the back room and order their spaghetti alla moro or spaghetti alle telline, but you can't go wrong with any dish. So delish!

2. Antica Pesa:

"My cousin Luigi introduced me to this spot (shown below). There's a beautiful outside seating area beneath a canopy, so, go when the weather is nice... And don't miss their super delicious toasted bread with olive oil, salt, and a side of ganache or their to die for pasta al'amatriciana. You can also buy their fresh pastas and sauces to take home."



3. **Antico Caffé del Moro:**

"This cozy spot is the perfect place to meet a friend for a cocktail, grab a drink before dinner or finish off the night. I like to order the Frangelico Frizzante: It's perfectly light and refreshing on any occasion."

4. **Il Gelato di San Crispino:**

"This gelato spot is the oldest in town and worth the wait—hands down the best gelato in Rome. They use all organic, fresh ingredients and take classic flavors to a new level. Try the hazelnut gelato or the San Crispino ice cream with strawberry tree honey sauce. Great for breakfast, lunch and dinner."



5. **Checchino dal 1887:**

"If you're looking for a dinner spot that's a little nicer, Checchino (shown above) is the place to go. They're famous for meat, so, be sure to order something from their wide carne selection. I, for one, love the roulade of lamb chops. They also have fantastic tasting menus if you can't decide what to get!"

6. **Ristoranta Ambasciata d'Abruzzo:**

"This rustic little spot is full of charm and comfort. Go for either lunch or dinner, but be sure to try their eggplant parmesan... It's unbelievable!"



7. **Matricianella:**

"This is the place to go if you're looking for traditional Roman food. I like to sit outside on the curb with my cousins and then order a bottle of local wine with a couple of dishes to share. My family's favorites? The bucatini all amatriciana and fritto misto."