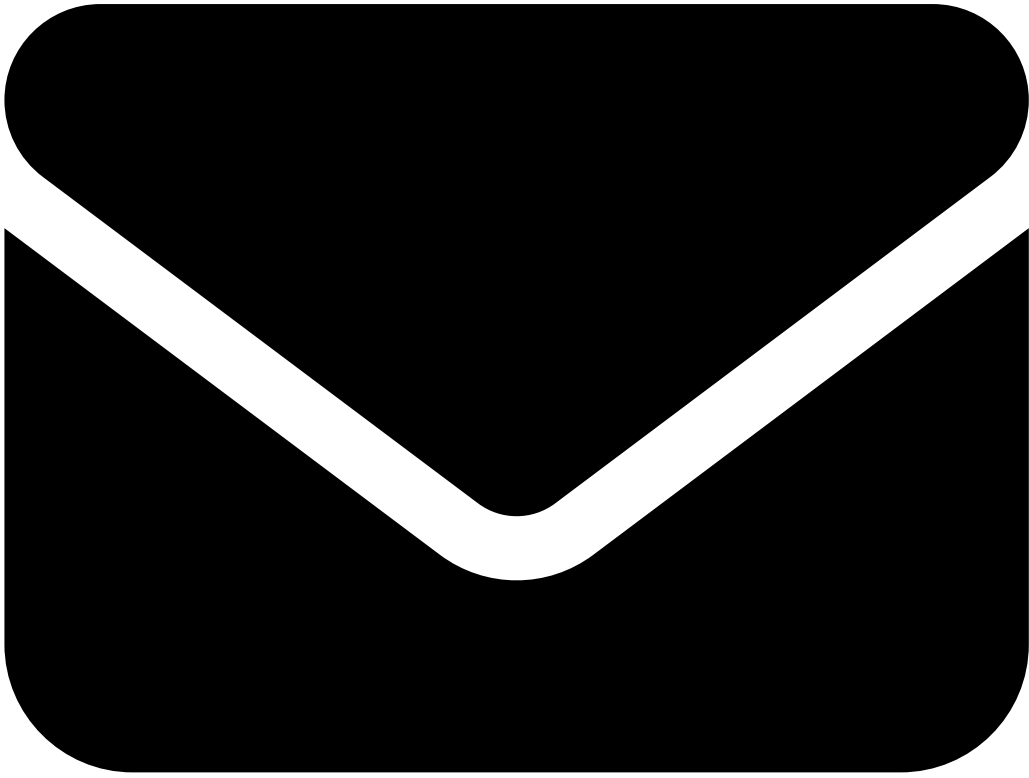


Tubettini Pasta Salad
(Italian pasta fredda)

Tubettini Pasta Salad
(Italian pasta fredda)

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This is the kind of pasta salad I always come back to once the weather warms up—simple, fresh, and made with whatever I have in the fridge. I like using tubettini because it catches all the little bits of salumi, cheese, and dressing in every bite, and it reminds me of the easy summer meals we'd throw together without overthinking it. It's the kind of dish that gets better as it sits, perfect for making ahead and putting out for a relaxed lunch or casual get-together.

Things to know about this Tubettini Pasta Salad (Italian pasta fredda)

- The meats are cut small, about the size of the

pasta—nothing chunky

- It's **olive oil based**, never creamy
- It should feel **balanced, not heavy or overloaded**
- Served at **room temp or slightly chilled**, not ice cold
- This is the kind of dish you'd see packed for a beach day or put out for a casual summer lunch. It's flexible—everyone kind of makes their own version based on what they have.

Optional Add-Ins

- Cubed provolone for a sharper bite
- Marinated artichokes
- Roasted red peppers
- A handful of arugula right before serving

Storage

Store any leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 3 days. Before serving, let it sit at room temperature for about 15–20 minutes and give it a quick toss with a drizzle of olive oil to refresh the flavors, as the pasta will absorb some of the dressing.

If you love simple, authentic Italian summer recipes like this, you'll want to try a few more of my favorites. Check out my Italian lemon **pasta al limone**, or classic **Italian pasta Portofino** on the blog for more fresh, seasonal inspiration. And if you make this Tubettini Pasta Salad (Italian pasta fredda) please leave me a comment I love hearing from you . It's my favorite part!!!!

Tubettini Pasta Salad (Italian

Pasta Fredda)



This authentic Italian tubettini pasta salad is loaded with fresh mozzarella, tomatoes, and savory Italian meats, all tossed in a simple olive oil dressing. The perfect light and flavorful summer pasta fredda for gatherings, picnics, or easy weeknight meals.

- 12 oz, Tubettini (You can use any small shaped pasta)
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes (cut in half)
- 1 cup fresh mozzarella (cubed or pearls)
- 1 cup each mixed Italian meats, diced: (salami mortadella prosciutto)
- 1/2 cup pitted kalamata olives
- 1/2 cup chopped red onion
- 1/2 cup torn fresh basil leaves

EASY Italian vinaigrette

- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/3 cup red wine vinegar
- 1 Tsp lemon juice
- 1 clove minced garlic
- 1 Tbsp. dried oregano
- 1 Tbsp. dried basil
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 Tsp. honey
- salt and pepper to taste

1. Cook the tubettini in salted water until al dente.

2. Drain and spread it out so it cools completely.
3. In a large bowl, combine tomatoes, mozzarella, meats, olives, and onion.
4. Add the cooled pasta.
5. Toss with the Italian vinaigrette
6. Fold in basil at the end.
7. Let it sit about 30 minutes before serving.

Instructions for the Vinaigrette

1. Add all of the ingredients to a glass jar with a lid shake variously until dressing is emulsified

Main Course, Salad, Side Dish
Italian
pasta, Italian, Salad

Authentic Italian Stuffed Tomatoes with Rice and Potatoes (Roman Recipe)

Authentic Italian Stuffed

Tomatoes with Rice and Potatoes (Roman Recipe)

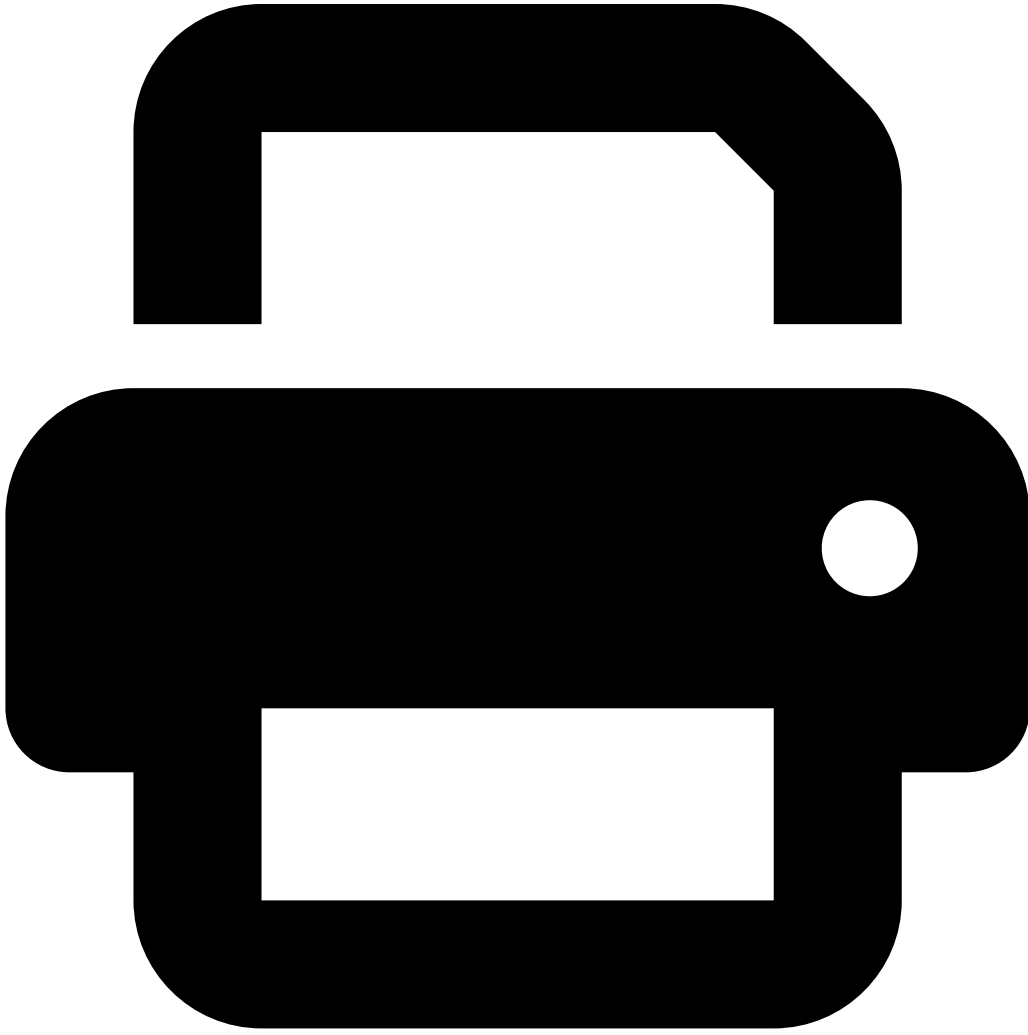
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This dish goes back to **Roman home cooking**, where simplicity wasn't a trend—it was survival and tradition. *Pomodori Ripieni di Riso* (stuffed tomatoes with rice) became especially popular in and around Rome and Lazio as a way to stretch seasonal summer produce into a full, satisfying meal.

Farmers and home cooks would hollow out ripe tomatoes at peak season, using every bit of the fruit—juice, pulp, and all—to season uncooked rice. As it baked slowly in the oven, the rice absorbed the tomato's natural sweetness while olive oil, garlic, and basil built layers of flavor. Nothing was wasted, and nothing was complicated.

The addition of potatoes baked underneath is a classic Roman touch. They act almost like a built-in side dish, soaking up the tomato juices as everything roasts together into one unified pan.

What you get is a dish that feels humble but deeply intentional—rooted in old-world Italian cooking where seasonal ingredients and patience did all the work.

Things to know about this Authentic Italian Stuffed Tomatoes with Rice and Potatoes (Roman Recipe)

What to Look For

- Rice fully cooked and fluffy inside
- Tomatoes slightly wrinkled and jammy
- Potatoes deeply golden and infused with tomato juices

• How to Serve

- Best at **room temperature** (this is very Italian)
- Drizzle with a little fresh olive oil before serving
- Spoon those potatoes right alongside—don't leave them behind

• Pro Tips

- Don't skip the resting time for the rice
- Use ripe but sturdy tomatoes so they hold their shape
- If the pan looks dry halfway through, add a splash of water or more olive oil
- Let them sit 10–15 minutes before serving so everything settles

• Storage

- **Fridge: up to 3 days**
- **Reheat gently or enjoy cold/room temp**
- **Flavor actually gets better the next day**
- **If you loved these authentic Roman stuffed tomatoes, you'll want to explore more simple Italian dishes that let seasonal ingredients shine.**
 - **My Authentic Tomato Bolognese Sauce** for another classic, slow-simmered staple
 - **Italian Roasted Potatoes** for the perfect crispy side dish
 - **Caponata (Sicilian Eggplant Relish)** if you love bold Mediterranean flavors
 - **Lemon Loaf** cake for something bright and sweet to finish

If you make this recipe, leave a comment and let me know how it turned out—or tag me so I can see your version straight from the oven ☐

Authentic Italian Stuffed Tomatoes with Rice and Potatoes (Roman Recipe)



Authentic Italian stuffed tomatoes filled with rice, garlic, and basil, roasted with potatoes until tender and flavorful—just like in Rome.

- 6 medium tomatoes (firm)
- 1 cup uncooked short grain rice (Arborio)
- 2 cloves garlic (minced)
- 1/3 cup basil (torn)
- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 2-3 medium potatoes (cut into medium dice)
- salt and pepper to taste

1. **Prep the Tomatoes**

Cut the tops off and set aside. Scoop out the pulp and juices into a bowl. Salt the inside of each tomato and place them upside down for about 20 minutes to drain.

2. **Make the Rice Filling**

Crush or blend the tomato pulp until slightly smooth.
Add:

Mix and let it sit for **at least 15 minutes**. □ This step is key—the rice absorbs all that tomato flavor before baking

3. **Prep the Potatoes**

Slice the potatoes thin or into medium dice Toss with:

Spread them in the bottom of your baking dish.

4. **Stuff & Assemble**

Fill the tomatoes with the rice mixture (don't pack tightly). Place them directly on top of the potatoes .Add

the tomato tops back on and drizzle everything with a little more olive oil.

5. Roast

Bake at **375°F (190°C)** for **50–60 minutes**, until:

the rice is tender the tomatoes are soft and slightly caramelized the potatoes are golden and crispy on the edges

Main Course

Italian

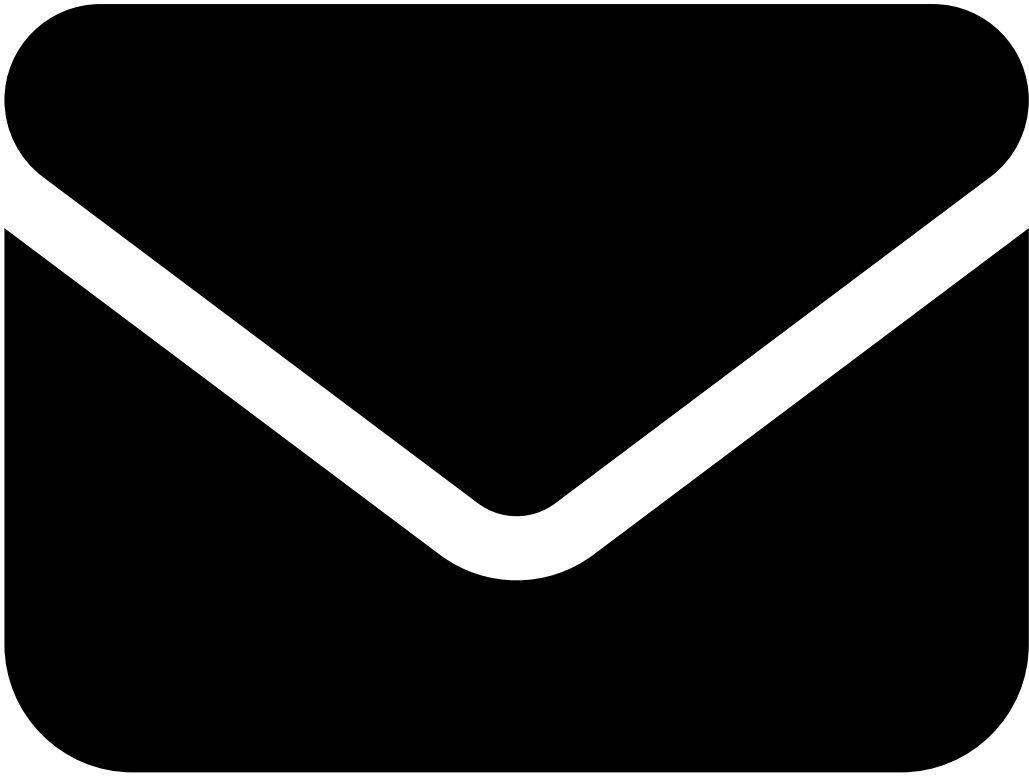
authentic Italian stuffed tomatoes with rice and potatoes”

Italian Spring Stew with Artichokes, Fava Beans & Peas (Vignarola Recipe)

Italian Spring Stew with Artichokes, Fava Beans & Peas (Vignarola Recipe)

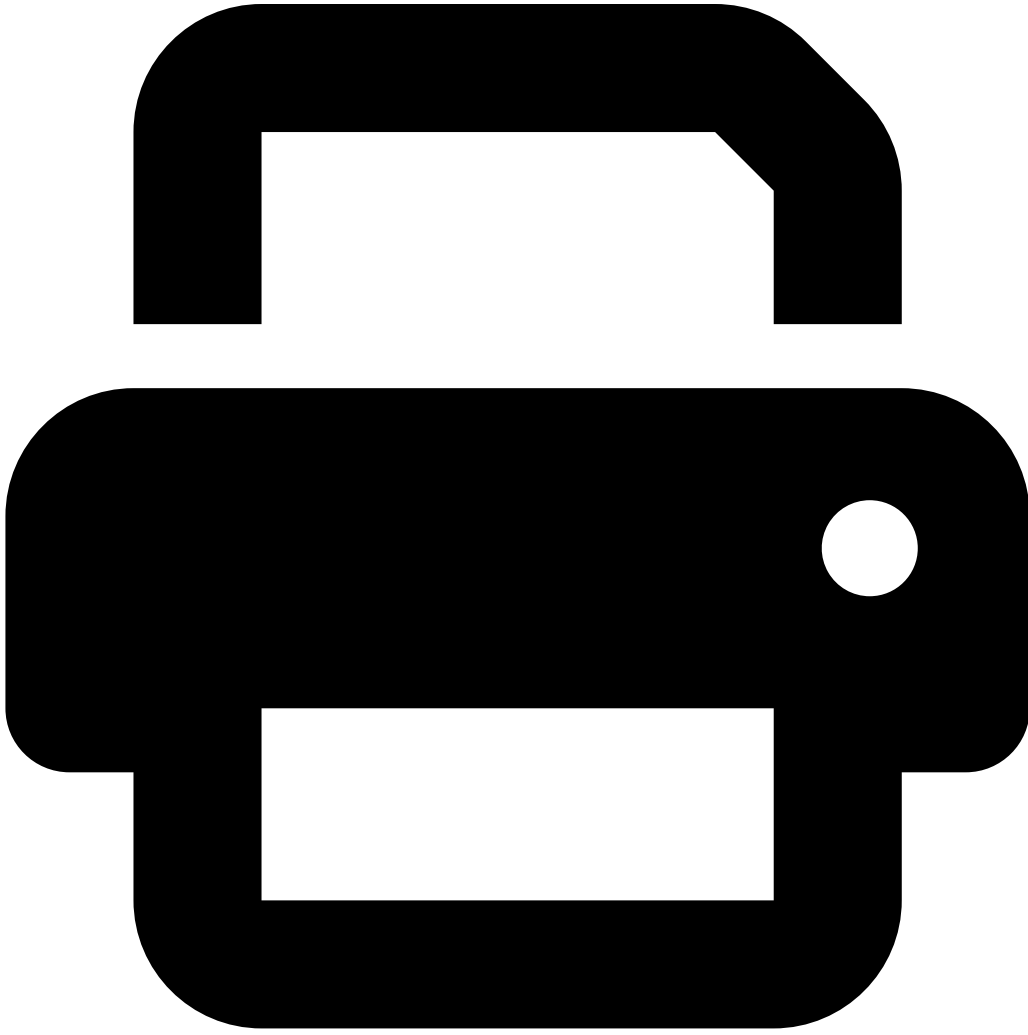
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If you've ever wondered what to do with fresh fava beans, this Italian spring stew is the answer.

This dish, known as *vignarola*, comes from Rome and celebrates everything we love about spring cooking—simple ingredients, minimal fuss, and incredible flavor. Artichokes, sweet peas, and tender fava beans are gently simmered together until soft and silky, creating a light, brothy stew that feels both rustic and refined.

This vegetarian version keeps it fresh and vibrant while still full of classic Roman flavor.

Things to know about Italian Spring

Stew with Artichokes, Fava Beans & Peas (Vignarola Recipe)

- Fully vegetarian and naturally light.
- Should be slightly brothy, not thick.
- Fresh fava beans taste best, but frozen works in a pinch.
- Artichokes take the longest—cook them first.

• Variations

Pasta Version

Toss the finished vignarola with short pasta and a splash of pasta water for a simple spring pasta.

Creamy Style

Blend a small portion of the vegetables and stir back in for a silkier texture.

No Fava Beans?

Substitute with edamame or extra peas.

What to Serve with Vignarola

- Grilled or roasted vegetables
- Crusty bread for soaking up the broth
- Or enjoy it as a light main dish on its own

• Storage

- Store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 3 days.
- Reheat gently on the stovetop with a splash of broth or water.
- **Freezing:** This stew freezes well for up to 2 months. Thaw in the fridge overnight and reheat gently on the stove.

If you love simple, seasonal Italian cooking, this

spring stew is one to keep on repeat. Save it for later, and don't forget to try it as a pasta—it's a game changer.

For more classic Italian recipes, check out:

- My asparagus lemon pasta
- My minestrone soup
- Or my personal favorite Annelletti al forno Authentic Sicilian baked pasta recipe

Italian Spring Stew with Artichokes, Fava Beans & Peas (Vignarola Recipe)



A classic Italian spring stew made with artichokes, fava beans, and peas. This traditional Roman vignarola recipe is fresh, simple, and full of seasonal flavor.

- 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 cup chopped onion (you can use Spring onions)
- 2 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 3 artichokes (cleaned & sliced)
- 1 cup fava beans (peeled)

- 1 cup peas (shelled)
- 3 cups romaine lettuce (chopped)
- 1 cup white wine
- 1/2-1 cup vegetable stock
- salt and pepper to taste

1. **Build the base** Heat olive oil in a large pan. Add onions and garlic. Cook until soft and fragrant.
2. **Cook the artichokes** Add sliced artichokes first and cook for 5–7 minutes until they begin to soften.
3. **Deglaze** Pour in white wine (if using) and let it reduce slightly.
4. **Add the vegetables** Stir in fava beans, peas, and chopped romaine.
5. **Simmer** Add vegetable broth, cover, and cook on low for 15–20 minutes until everything is tender and silky.
6. **Finish** Season with salt and pepper. Stir in fresh mint or parsley right before serving.

Cleaning Artichokes: Fresh artichokes are beautiful but a little tricky to prep. Start by trimming the tough outer leaves and cutting off the sharp tips. Remove the stem and peel away any fibrous layers until you reach the tender heart. Slice and cook immediately to prevent browning, or toss with a little lemon juice. If you'd rather skip the prep, many grocery stores now sell **pre-cleaned, trimmed artichoke hearts**—perfect for a quick, no-fuss vignarola.

Side Dish

Italian

Vignarola, Italian, stew, artichokes, fava , beans

Italian-Style Scarpaccia Roll

Vegetable

Italian style vegetable scarpaccia roll

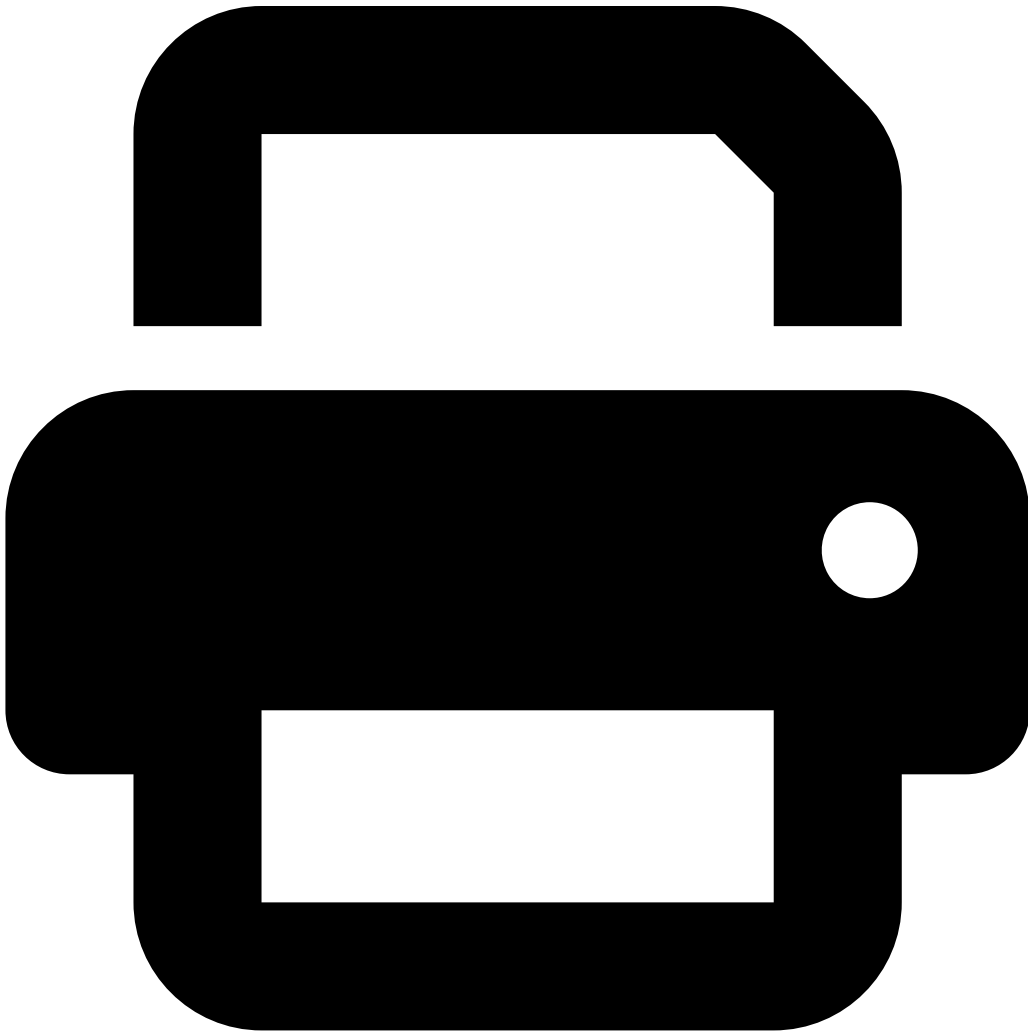
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There's something about taking a traditional recipe and giving it your own twist that just feels right. This vegetable scarpaccia roll is exactly that—a rustic Italian-inspired bake that turns into something unexpectedly beautiful once it's rolled, sliced, and served.

If you've ever had scarpaccia, you know it's typically flat, crispy on the edges, and loaded with vegetables. But this version? We're taking it a step further.

I bake it first until it's set and lightly golden, then layer it with Italian ham and provolone, pop it back in the oven just until everything melts together, and roll it up while it's still warm. Once it rests, it slices into the most perfect savory spirals.

It's simple, comforting, and feels like something you'd find tucked into a small bakery case in Italy.

Things to know about this Italian-Style Vegetable Scarpaccia Roll

- You can swap the vegetables depending on the season
- Add herbs like basil or thyme for extra flavor
- Make it vegetarian by skipping the ham or using grilled eggplant instead
- It rolls best while warm—but slices best once slightly cooled

• Serving Suggestions

Slice the roll into 1-inch spirals and serve warm or at room temperature. It's perfect as part of an antipasto spread with olives, roasted peppers, and a simple salad.

This also works beautifully for:

- Brunch boards
- Light lunches with a side salad
- Holiday appetizers (especially around Easter)

If you love recipes like this, pair it with your **Italian ricotta pie** for a sweet finish or your **asparagus frittata** for a full Italian-style spread.

• Storage

- **Refrigerator:** Store leftovers in an airtight container for up to 3–4 days.
- **Reheating:** Warm slices in the oven at 350°F for about 10 minutes, or enjoy at room temp.
- **Freezing:** You can freeze it, but for best texture, freeze before slicing. Wrap tightly and freeze for up to 1 month. Thaw overnight in the fridge and reheat in the oven.

More seasonal recipes to try

- [Italian Ricotta Pie](#) (perfect sweet pairing)
- [Spinach and potato Frittata](#) (great for brunch spreads)
- [Italian Easter Bread](#) (another classic for holidays)

These help turn this into a full menu your readers can come back to again and again [▶](#)

Italian-Style Vegetable Scarpaccia Roll



A rustic Italian-inspired vegetable scarpaccia roll layered with savory ham and melted provolone, baked to perfection and rolled into beautiful, sliceable spirals—easy, comforting, and perfect for entertaining.

- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 1 cup grated carrots
- 1/2 cup grated onion
- 1 – 1 1/2 cups water + water extract from the vegetables
(Add the water extracted from the vegetables)

- 2 tsp. salt (to help extract the liquid from the vegetables)
- 4 – 6 slices Italian ham or prosciutto
- 4-6 slices provolone cheese

1. **Prep the vegetables** Grate the zucchini, onions, and carrots. Place them in a bowl, sprinkle with salt, and weigh them down (a plate with something heavy on top works well). Let sit for about 1 hour to draw out the liquid.
2. **Don't waste the liquid** After an hour, squeeze out the vegetables—but **save that liquid**. This is where all the flavor is. You'll use it as part (or all) of the water for your batter.
3. **Make the batter** In a bowl, combine the drained vegetables with flour, olive oil, pepper, and the reserved vegetable liquid (adding extra water only if needed) until you get a thin, pourable batter.
4. **First bake** Pour onto a parchment-lined baking sheet, spread thin, and bake at 400°F until set and lightly golden, about 20–25 minutes.
5. **Add the filling** Layer with Italian ham and provolone.
6. **Second bake** Return to the oven just until the cheese melts, about 5–8 minutes.
7. **Roll and rest** Roll it up while warm in a clean kitchen towel like a jelly roll, then let it rest 1 hour before slicing.

Appetizer

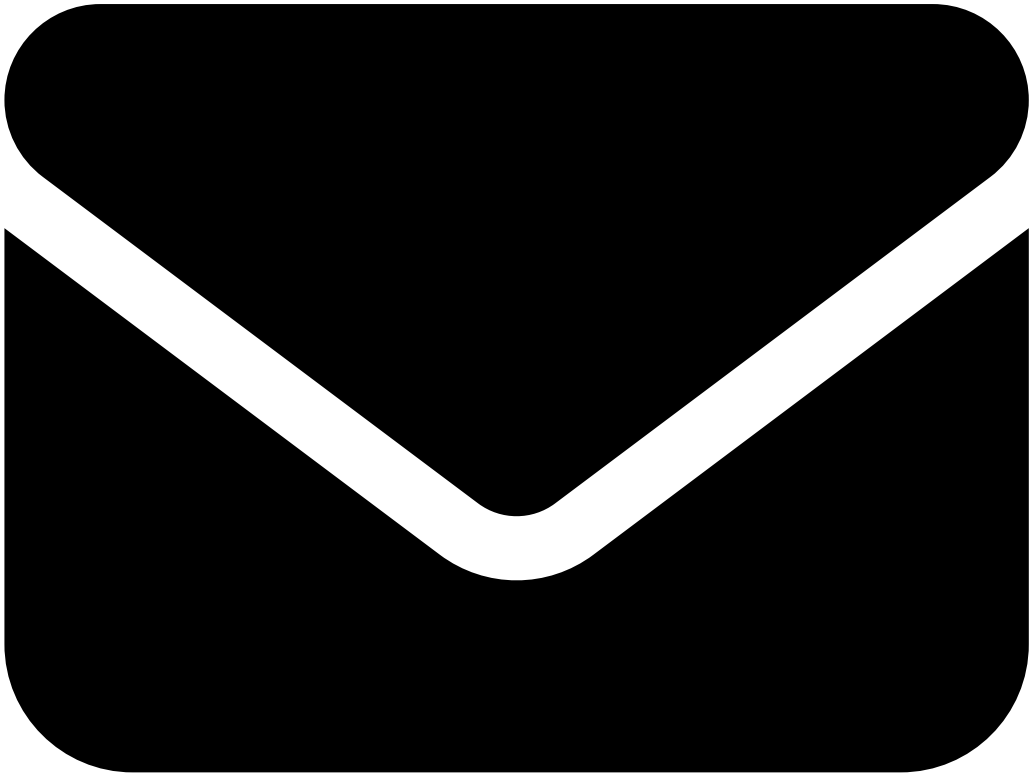
Italian

zucchini, vegetable, rolls, scarpaccia

Italian Kale and Potatoes

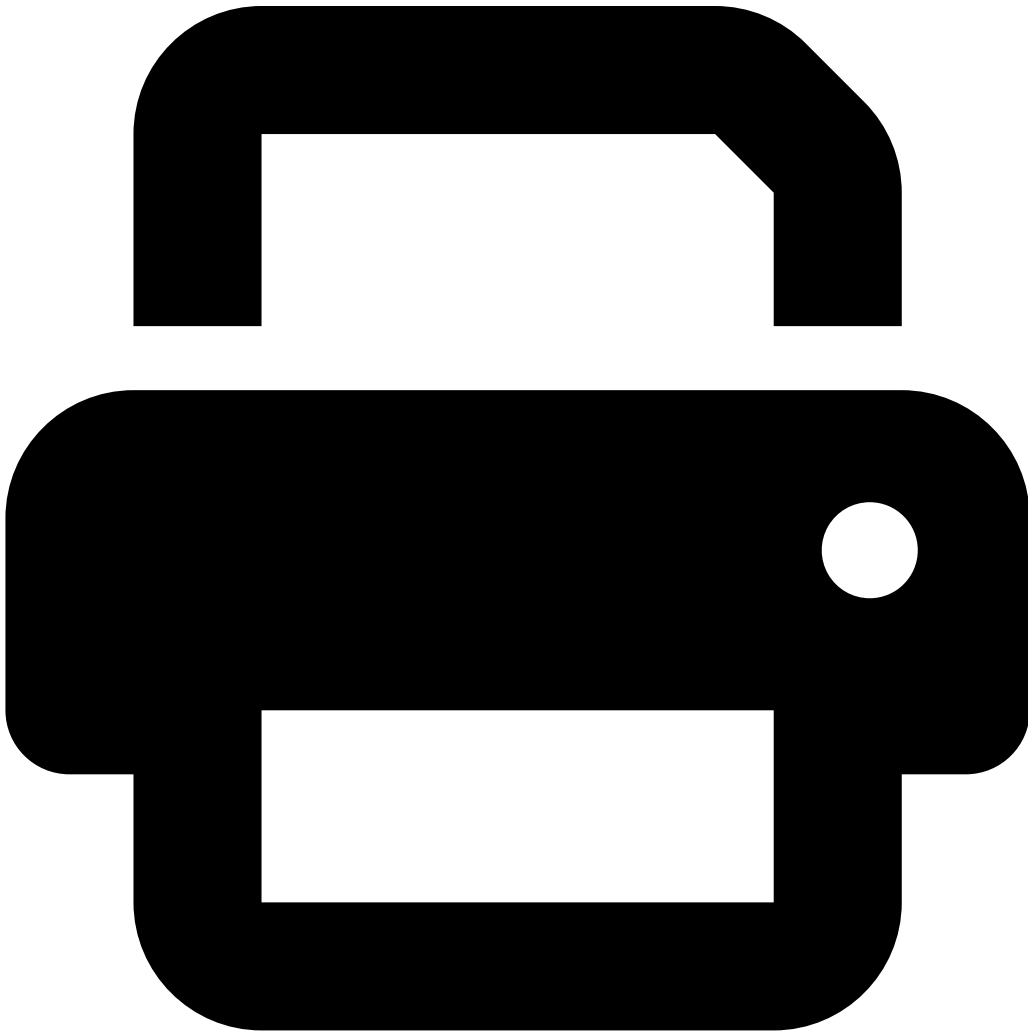
Italian Kale and Potatoes This post may contain affiliate links, that help support this blog. If you make a purchase through these links, I may earn a commission—at no cost to you. For more information read my disclosure policy.











Tuscan Kale and Potatoes is one of those dishes that reminds us how beautiful simple food can be. In Tuscany, cooking has always been about making the most of what's growing in the garden and what's in the pantry. Hearty greens like Tuscan kale – often called lacinato or dinosaur kale – have been a staple in the region for centuries, especially in rustic, peasant-style cooking known as *cucina povera*.

Potatoes, introduced to Italy in the 16th century, eventually became a beloved part of country cooking because they were filling, affordable, and easy to grow. Pair them with sturdy kale, good olive oil, and garlic, and you have the foundation of countless traditional Tuscan dishes – simple, nourishing, and deeply satisfying.

This version adds blistered cherry tomatoes for a little sweetness and brightness, but the heart of the dish stays true to its roots: humble ingredients treated with care. It's the

kind of food that feels like it belongs on a farmhouse table, served family-style with warm bread and good conversation.

Things to know about this Italian kale and potatoes

- **Don't skip parboiling** – it ensures the potatoes are creamy inside and golden when sautéed.
 - Tuscan kale (also called lacinato or dinosaur kale) holds its texture beautifully in this dish.
 - Want to make it heartier? Add white beans or top with a fried egg.
 - This dish reheats beautifully the next day.
-

Serving Ideas

This pairs beautifully with:

- Grilled chicken
- Italian sausage
- Pan-seared fish
- Or simply warm crusty bread and good olive oil

It's also delicious served at room temperature, making it perfect for gatherings.

Storage

Store leftovers in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 3 days. Reheat gently in a skillet with a drizzle of olive oil.

Final Thoughts

This is the kind of rustic Italian cooking that proves you don't need complicated ingredients to create something deeply satisfying. Just good olive oil, fresh vegetables, and a little care.

If you make this Tuscan Kale and Potatoes, let me know in the comments – and don't forget to share it with someone who loves simple Italian cooking ☐

Bring Rustic Italian Cooking Home

If you loved this Tuscan Kale and Potatoes, you're going to enjoy some of my other simple, rustic Italian dishes that celebrate humble ingredients and big flavor.

For another cozy vegetable-forward dish, try my **Italian Spaghetti Frittata** – it's a beautiful way to transform simple ingredients into something special.

If you're looking to make this a complete meal, serve it alongside my **Italian Meatloaf with Potatoes** for a hearty Sunday-style dinner.

Or keep things classic with my **cod Francese**

And if you love traditional pasta shapes, don't miss my **Southern Italian Cavatelli** – perfect for pairing with greens and olive oil-based sauces.

Simple ingredients. Timeless recipes. Real Italian flavor.

If you make this dish, leave a comment below and let me know how you served it – I love seeing how these recipes come to life in your kitchen ☐

Italian Kale and Potatoes



Golden potatoes, tender Tuscan kale, and juicy blistered cherry tomatoes tossed with garlic and a little heat . Simple ingredients, big Italian flavor.

- 1 1/2 lbs. potatoes (cubed)
- 1 large bunch Tuscan kale
- 3 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp. garlic (minced)
- 1 tsp. red pepper flakes

- 1 cup white wine
- salt and pepper to taste

1. **Parboil the Potatoes**

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the cubed potatoes and cook for about 8–10 minutes, just until fork-tender but not falling apart. Add the kale and cook 5 minutes longer. Drain and set aside.

2. **Blister the Tomatoes**

In a large skillet over medium heat, add 1 tablespoon olive oil. Add the cherry tomatoes and cook undisturbed for 3–4 minutes until they begin to blister and burst.

3. **Sauté the Garlic and Kale**

In the same skillet, add the remaining olive oil. Add the sliced garlic and red pepper flakes, cooking for about 30 seconds until fragrant.

Add the chopped Tuscan kale and a pinch of salt. Sauté for 4–5 minutes until wilted and tender. Deglaze the pan with the white wine.

4. **Bring It Together**

Add the drained potatoes back to the skillet. Gently toss everything together and cook for another 3–5 minutes to allow the flavors to meld.

Fold in the blistered cherry tomatoes. Season with salt and black pepper to taste.

Finish with freshly grated Pecorino Romano if desired.

Main Course
Italian
Italian, Tuscan, Kale

Farinata Italian Chickpeas Flatbread

Farinata Italian Chickpeas Flatbread

Farinata Italian chickpeas flatbread is one of those quietly iconic Italian foods – simple, humble, and deeply rooted in tradition. Originating in Liguria, this thin chickpea flatbread has been made for centuries using just chickpeas, water, olive oil, and salt. It began as street food, valued for being filling, affordable, and made entirely from pantry staples.

Traditionally, farinata is prepared with chickpea flour, but this version goes straight to the source by using **whole dried chickpeas**. After soaking and blending, the batter bakes into a flatbread with crisp, golden edges and a soft, creamy center. It's rustic, naturally gluten-free, and a perfect example of how Italian cooking lets simple ingredients do the work.

Things to know about this Farinata Italian Chickpeas Flatbread

- Farinata Italian chickpeas flatbread should always be **thin** – a thick batter will bake up dense instead of creamy.
- Resting the batter improves both flavor and texture, so don't skip it.
- Using whole chickpeas creates a slightly more rustic result than chickpea flour, while staying true to tradition.
- A hot cast iron or metal pan is key for proper browning and crisp edges.
- Farinata is best enjoyed hot, straight from the oven, but leftovers reheat well in a hot pan.

▪ **Variation: Rustic Farinata (Unstrained Batter)**

For a heartier, more rustic farinata, skip straining the blended chickpea batter. The finished flatbread will be slightly thicker with more texture, while still keeping the classic crispy edges and creamy center. Just be sure the batter remains thin enough to spread easily in the pan before baking.

▪ **Storage & Reheating**

Farinata Italian chickpeas flatbread is best enjoyed fresh, but leftovers store well.

- **Refrigerator:** Store cooled farinata in an airtight container for up to **3 days**.

- **Reheating:** Reheat in a **hot skillet** with a small drizzle of olive oil until warmed through and the edges crisp again.
- **Avoid the microwave** if possible – it softens the texture and dulls the flavor.

Farinata does not freeze well, as the texture becomes grainy once thawed.

- If you love simple Italian recipes made from pantry staples, be sure to explore more on the blog. Pair this farinata with my **Homemade Beef Bone Broth** for a comforting meal, or serve it alongside my Italian and Italian-inspired soups for an easy, rustic spread.

And if you make this farinata Italian chickpeas flatbread, leave a comment below or tag me on social – I love seeing how you serve it and make it your own.





Farinata Italian chickpeas flat bread

Ingredients (serves 4–6)

- 1 cup dried chickpeas, soaked overnight (12–24 hours)
- 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups fresh water (for blending)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon fine sea salt
- 3–4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided

- **Freshly ground black pepper**, to finish

Optional toppings (add sparingly):

- Fresh rosemary
- Thinly sliced red onion
- Arugula
- Parmigiano Reggiano

Instructions

1. Soak the chickpeas

Soak dried chickpeas in plenty of water overnight. Drain and rinse well.

2. Optional (but recommended for texture):

Simmer the soaked chickpeas in fresh water for **20–30 minutes**, just until tender. Drain and let cool slightly.

3. Blend the batter

Add chickpeas and **1 cup water** to a high-speed blender. Blend until completely smooth.

Add more water, a little at a time, if needed – the batter should be **thin, like crêpe batter**, not thick like hummus.

4. Strain for smoothness

Strain the batter through a fine-mesh sieve for a smoother texture, or skip this step for a more rustic farinata

5. Season and rest

Stir in the salt.

Cover and let the batter rest at **room temperature for at**

least 1 hour, preferably 2–3 hours.
Skim off any foam that forms on top.

6. Preheat oven and pan

Preheat oven to **425°F** (
Place a **12-inch cast iron skillet or metal baking pan** in
the oven to heat.

7. Oil the pan

Carefully remove the hot pan and add **2 tablespoons olive oil**,
swirling to coat evenly.

Bake

Pour the rested batter into the pan (it should spread thinly).
Drizzle the remaining olive oil over the top.
Add rosemary or onions now, if using.

Cook until set and golden

Bake for **18–25 minutes**, until:

- Edges are crisp and deeply golden
- Top has light browning
- Center is just set and creamy

Optional: Broil for **2–3 minutes** for extra char.

Serve immediately

Finish with black pepper and any fresh toppings.
Slice into wedges and serve hot.

French Onion Soup with an Italian Twist

French Onion Soup with an Italian Twist

French onion soup has always felt like the ultimate comfort food to me, but I can't help adding an Italian touch to the dishes I love most. In my kitchen, onions are never rushed—they're slowly caramelized the way I learned growing up, filling the house with that unmistakable, cozy aroma that signals something special is coming. For this version, I use a mix of red onions, yellow onions, and leeks, then finish the soup the Italian way—with herb focaccia and freshly grated Fontina instead of the classic baguette and Gruyère. It's familiar yet different, rustic but comforting, and exactly the kind of soup I make when I want something simple, soulful, and meant to be shared.

Things to know about this French Onion Soup with an Italian Twist

- A mix of yellow onions, red onions, and leeks adds natural sweetness and depth without needing sugar.
- Fontina melts smoothly and stays creamy, making it a perfect Italian alternative to Gruyère.
- Herb focaccia absorbs the broth while still holding its shape, giving you that perfect bite every time.

- The soup base can be made a day ahead; add the focaccia and cheese just before serving for best texture.
- **Storage:** Store leftover soup (without focaccia or cheese) in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 4 days.
- **Freezing:** This soup freezes well without the bread and cheese. Freeze in freezer-safe containers for up to 3 months. Thaw overnight in the refrigerator and reheat on the stovetop before adding toppings.
- Always add the focaccia and Fontina fresh just before broiling for the best texture and flavor.
- If you love classic comfort food with an Italian twist, this **French Onion Soup with an Italian Twist** is a must-try. The combination of caramelized onions, leeks, herb focaccia, and melty Fontina makes it a cozy, flavorful soup perfect for any season.

For more hearty Italian soups, explore my **Creamy Sausage Tortellini Soup** or **Potato Leek Soup with Pancetta**—both are easy to make and full of rich, comforting flavors.

Want to try more Italian-inspired weeknight recipes? Don't miss my **Italian sausage Escarole and Beans** or **Spinach Ricotta Balls** for quick, flavorful meals the whole family will love.

Remember to **save this French Onion Soup recipe** for later and **follow my blog** for more Italian cooking inspiration delivered right to your inbox!





French Onion Soup with an Italian Twist

Prep Time

15 minutes

Cook Time

1 hour 10 minutes

Total Time

1 hour 25 minutes

Servings

4–6

Ingredients

Soup

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 large yellow onions, thinly sliced
- 2 medium red onions, thinly sliced
- 2 large leeks, white and light green parts only, thinly sliced and well rinsed
- 1 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup dry white wine
- 6 cups beef broth (or chicken broth for a lighter version)
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves (or $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon dried)
- 1 bay leaf

Topping

- 4–6 slices herb focaccia
 - 1½ cups freshly grated Fontina cheese
-

Instructions

1. Caramelize the onions

In a large heavy-bottomed pot or Dutch oven, heat the olive oil and butter over medium heat. Add the yellow onions, red onions, and leeks. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 35–40 minutes, until deeply golden, soft, and caramelized. Reduce heat if needed to prevent burning.

2. Build the flavor

Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute until fragrant. Pour in the white wine, scraping up any browned bits from the bottom of the pot. Simmer for 2–3 minutes until slightly reduced.

3. Simmer the soup

Add the broth, thyme, and bay leaf. Bring to a gentle simmer, cover partially, and cook for 25–30 minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning. Remove the bay leaf.

4. Prepare for broiling

Preheat the broiler. Ladle the soup into oven-safe bowls and place them on a baking sheet.

5. Add the Italian topping

Top each bowl with a slice of herb focaccia, then generously sprinkle with Fontina cheese.

6. Broil

Broil for 2–4 minutes, until the cheese is fully melted, bubbling, and lightly golden. Watch closely.

7. Serve

Serve immediately, hot and bubbling, with extra focaccia on the side if desired.

Instructions

1. First step
 2. Second
 3. And so on
-

Crispy Italian Potato Scarpaccia

Crispy Italian Potato Scarpacci

This **Italian Potato Scarpaccia (Scarpaccia di Patate)** is one of those humble, rustic dishes that turns the simplest ingredients into something crave-worthy. Traditionally associated with thin, baked savory cakes meant to stretch what you had on hand, this version leans into **mashed potatoes**, eggs, sharp Pecorino Romano, and fresh parsley. When spread very thin and baked hot on a well-oiled pan, it transforms into something magical: crisp, golden edges with a savory, almost crackly bite, and just enough tenderness in the center to hold it all together.

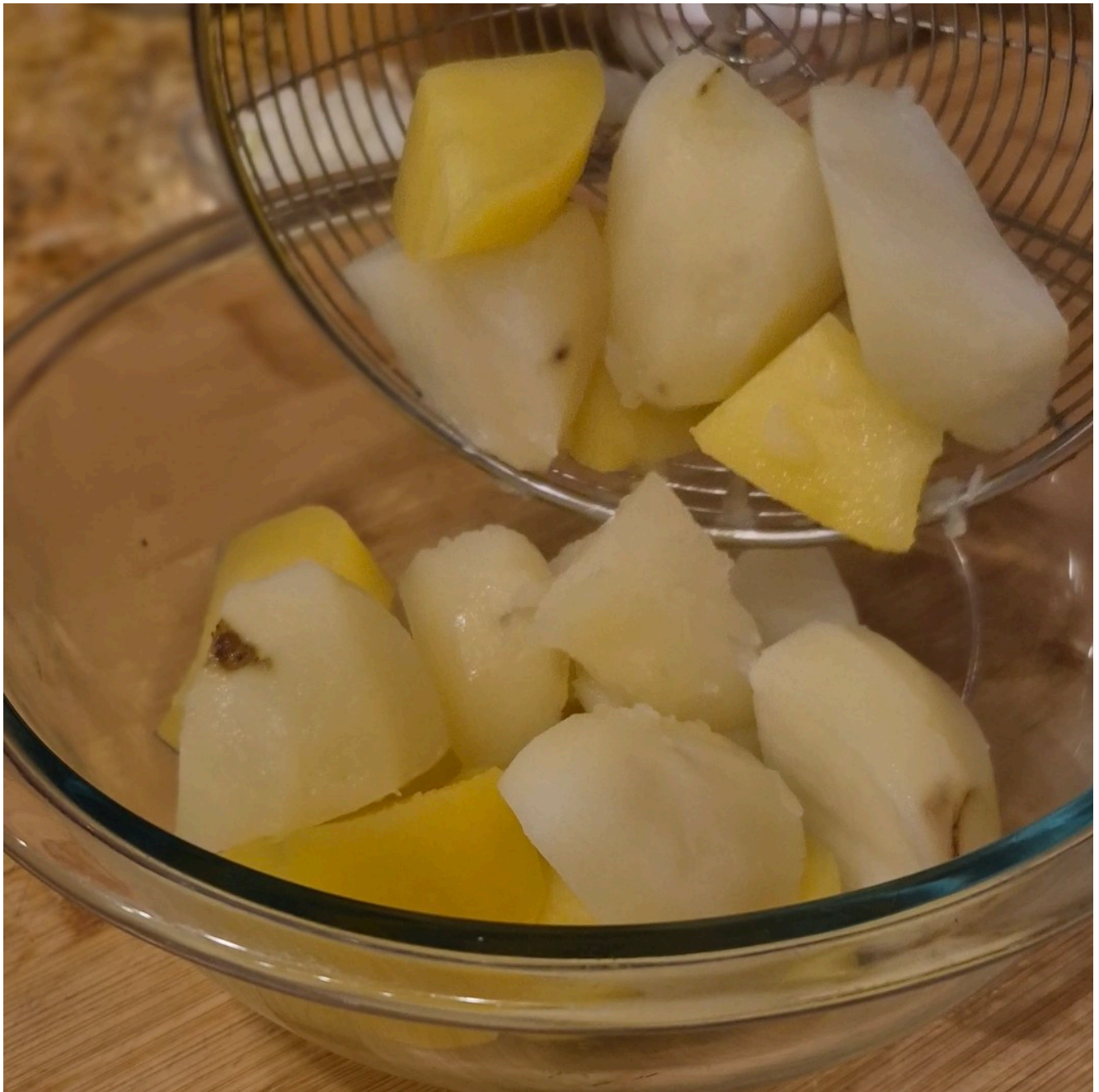
It's the kind of recipe that feels equally at home as a casual weeknight side, a pre-dinner nibble cut into squares, or even

set out with antipasti for guests. Best of all, it's naturally gluten-free, unfussy, and incredibly forgiving – exactly the kind of food Italian home cooks have relied on for generations.

Things to know about this Crispy Italian Potato Scarpaccia

- **Thin is everything:** The crispiness comes from spreading the mixture thinner than you think. Thick scarpaccia will stay soft.
- **Cool potatoes matter:** Fully cooled mashed potatoes prevent excess moisture and help the scarpaccia crisp instead of steam.
- **Oil = texture:** A generously oiled pan doesn't just prevent sticking – it “fries” the bottom as it bakes.
- **Great for leftovers:** This is a perfect way to repurpose leftover mashed potatoes.
- **Even better after resting:** Letting it sit for 5–10 minutes after baking actually improves the texture before slicing.
- If you loved this **crispy potato scarpaccia**, be sure to explore more **Italian-inspired comfort food** on the blog – from simple sides to classic recipes shaped by my years in the restaurant kitchen. Start with my Italian stuffed eggplant with rice and sausage, spinach ricotta balls, or my crispy zucchini scarpaccia

If you make this recipe, I'd love to hear how it turned out – leave a comment below or share a photo and tag me on Instagram so I can see your scarpaccia come out perfectly crisp.





Crispy Italian Potato Scarpaccia

Recipe Details

- **Pan Size:** 10 x 15-inch rimmed sheet pan
(You can use a standard half-sheet pan, but spread the mixture extra thin toward the center.)
- **Servings:** 6–8 (as an appetizer or side)
- **Prep Time:** 10 minutes

- **Cook Time:** 22–28 minutes

Ingredients

- **2 cups mashed potatoes** (about 1 lb / 450 g potatoes, cooked and fully cooled)
- **2 large eggs**
- **1 cup Pecorino Romano**, finely grated
- **$\frac{1}{4}$ cup fresh parsley**, finely chopped
- **Salt and pepper to taste**
- **$\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil**, divide

Instructions

1. Preheat the Oven

Preheat oven to **425°F (220°C)**.

Place a rack in the **middle-to-lower third** of the oven for best crisping.

2. Oil the Pan

Generously coat the sheet pan with **2 tablespoons olive oil**. The oil should fully cover the bottom – this helps crisp the scarpaccia like it's shallow-fried.

3. Make the Mixture

In a bowl, combine mashed potatoes, eggs, Pecorino Romano, parsley, salt, and pepper. Mix until smooth and spreadable.

4. Spread Very Thin

Transfer the mixture to the pan and spread it **very thin**,

almost edge to edge. Drizzle the remaining **2 tablespoons olive oil** evenly over the top.

5. Bake

- Bake for **22–28 minutes**, rotating the pan halfway through.
- The scarpaccia is done when:
 - The top is deeply golden
 - The edges are crisp and slightly curled
 - The center is firm, not soft or steamy

Optional: For extra crispiness, broil for **2–3 minutes** at the end. Watch closely

1. Rest & Slice

Let rest **5–10 minutes** before slicing. This allows steam to escape and keeps it crisp.

Cut into squares or wedges and serve warm or at room temperature.

The Ultimate Guide to Italian & Italian-Inspired Soups

The Ultimate Guide to Italian & Italian-Inspired Soups

10 Cozy, Classic Soup Recipes for Every Season

Soup has always been at the heart of Italian home cooking – simple ingredients, slow simmering, and deep, comforting flavor. Whether you're craving a light brothy soup or something rich and hearty, this **Italian soup collection** brings together my most-loved recipes, many inspired by dishes I cooked in my restaurants and made at home for my family.

This guide features **10 Italian and Italian-inspired soup recipes**, perfect for weeknight dinners, holidays, and cozy weekends. Bookmark this post – it's your go-to soup resource all year long.

The Ultimate Guide to Italian & Italian-Inspired Soups

10 Cozy, Classic Soup Recipes for Every Season

☐ Brothy & Light Italian Soups

Simple, nourishing, and perfect when you want something lighter.

1. Italian Wedding Soup



Tender meatballs, leafy greens, and delicate pasta simmered in rich chicken broth – a true Italian classic.

- [Get the recipe: Italian Wedding Soup](#)

2. Tortellini in Brodo



A Northern Italian favorite featuring cheese-filled tortellini served in hot, savory broth.

- [Get the recipe: Tortellini in Brodo](#)

☐ **Hearty & Rustic Soups**

These soups eat like a full meal – filling, cozy, and deeply satisfying.

3. Pasta e Fagioli



A rustic, comforting soup made with beans, pasta, and a flavorful tomato base – just like Nonna used to make.

-☐ *Get the recipe:* **Authentic Italian Pasta e Fagioli**

4. Sausage & Lentil Soup



Traditionally served on New Year's Eve for good luck, this hearty soup is rich, savory, and deeply comforting.

- [Get the recipe: Sausage and Lentil Soup](#)

5. Escarole & Beans with Italian Sausage



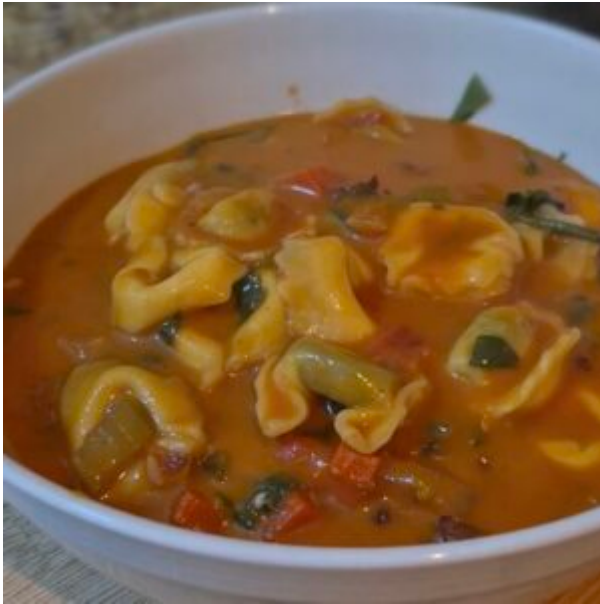
A classic Italian-American soup that's simple, nourishing, and packed with bold flavor.

- [Get the recipe: Italian Escarole and Beans](#)

☐ Creamy & Comforting Soups

Rich, velvety soups that feel like a warm hug.

6. Creamy Sausage Tortellini Soup



A fan favorite – cheesy tortellini, Italian sausage, and a creamy broth that comes together quickly.

-☐ *Get the recipe:* **Creamy Sausage Tortellini Soup**

7. Potato Leek Soup with Pancetta



A restaurant-style classic – silky smooth with crispy pancetta for added depth and flavor.

-> *Get the recipe:* **Potato Leek Soup with Pancetta**

8. Vegetarian Mushroom Soup (Italian Style)



Earthy mushrooms, herbs, and a rich broth make this vegetarian soup incredibly satisfying.

-> *Get the recipe:* **Italian Mushroom Soup**

☐ **Holiday & Special Occasion Soups**

Perfect for celebrations, traditions, and family gatherings.

9. Italian Holiday Chicken Soup



☐ A comforting soup often served during holidays – light, flavorful, and deeply nostalgic.

☐ *Get the recipe:* **Italian Holiday Chicken Soup**

10. Creamy Italian Bean and Parmesan soup



A hearty, old-fashioned soup that was always a staple in my restaurants – filling, budget-friendly, and perfect for leftovers.

→ *Get the recipe:* creamy Italian Bean and Parmesan soup

□ **Good to Know**

- Most of these soups **freeze beautifully**
 - Brothy soups are perfect for **make-ahead meals**
 - Many recipes can be adapted for **vegetarian or gluten-free diets**
 - Homemade broth adds the best flavor, but quality store-bought works well too
 - A heavy-bottomed 8–12 quart stainless steel stockpot is ideal for making soup because it heats evenly, prevents scorching, and gives you plenty of room for simmering brothy and hearty soups alike.
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□ **What to Serve with Italian Soup**

- Crusty Italian bread
- Garlic bread or focaccia
- Simple green salad
- Grated Parmigiano Reggiano

Pizza di Scarola: Classic Italian Savory Escarole Pie

Pizza di Scarola: Classic Italian Savory Escarole Pie

Pizza di Scarola is a classic Italian savory pie filled with tender escarole, garlic, olives, capers, and anchovies, all wrapped in soft pizza dough. Rooted in Neapolitan cooking, this humble dish has been made for generations using simple pantry ingredients and seasonal winter greens.

Traditionally, **Pizza di Scarola** is prepared during the **Christmas season and enjoyed through Epiphany**, when Italian families gather to mark the close of the holidays. Its balance of bitter greens and savory flavors reflects both the season and the rhythm of Italian home cooking, making it a recipe that feels just as comforting today as it did centuries ago.

Often served warm or at room temperature, this savory pie is meant to be shared—whether as part of a holiday table or as a simple, satisfying meal any time of year.

Things to know about this Pizza di Scarola: Classic Italian Savory Escarole Pie

- **Escarole is traditional.** Its mild bitterness balances the salty olives, capers, and anchovies that define this

classic pie.

- **Substitute greens, if needed.** While escarole is the authentic choice, endive, broccoli rabe, Swiss chard, or spinach can be used when escarole isn't available. Always blanch and squeeze the greens very dry to prevent a soggy filling.
- **Anchovies melt into the filling.** They don't make the pie taste fishy—just deeply savory. You can omit them if preferred, but they are traditional.
- **Make it ahead.** Pizza di Scarola is often prepared in advance and served warm or at room temperature. In fact, the flavors improve after resting.
- **Use pizza dough, not pastry.** This is a bread-style pie, not a puff pastry tart—keeping it rustic and true to its Neapolitan roots.
- Serve Pizza di Scarola as part of an Italian spread alongside a **simple citrus salad**, a bowl of **Italian wedding soup**, or one of my **easy Italian cookies** for dessert. It also pairs beautifully with other traditional recipes often served during the holiday season or for casual family meals.

□ Be sure to explore:

- **My Italian Wedding Soup**
- Persimmon carpaccio salad
- **Creamy Italian zuppa Toscana**





Pizza di Scarola (Italian Escarole Pie)

Serves: 6–8

Prep Time: 30 minutes

Cook Time: 40–45 minutes

Total Time: About 1 hour 15 minutes

Ingredients

For the dough

- 1 lb pizza dough (store-bought or homemade), at room temperature
- Extra virgin olive oil, for brushing

For the escarole filling

- 2 large heads escarole, washed and chopped
- 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, sliced
- 4 anchovy fillets, chopped (optional but traditional)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup pitted Gaeta or Kalamata olives, chopped
- 2 tbsp capers, rinsed and drained
- 2 tbsp pine nuts (optional)
- 2 tbsp raisins (optional, traditional sweet-salty touch)
- Salt and black pepper, to taste
- Red pepper flakes (optional)

• Instructions

▪ Prepare the escarole

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the escarole and blanch for 3–4 minutes until just tender. Drain well and squeeze out excess water. Set aside.

▪ Cook the filling

In a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic and sauté until fragrant. Stir in anchovies and let them melt into the oil.

Add escarole, olives, capers, pine nuts, and raisins. Season lightly with salt, black pepper, and red pepper flakes. Cook for 5–7 minutes until well combined and flavorful. Let cool slightly.

▪ Assemble the pie

Preheat oven to **375°F (190°C)**. Lightly oil a 9–10 inch round baking pan.

Divide dough into two pieces, one slightly larger than the other. Roll out the larger piece and line the pan, letting excess hang over the sides.

Fill with escarole mixture. Roll out remaining dough and place on top. Seal and crimp edges. Prick the top with a fork and brush lightly with olive oil.

- **Bake**

Bake for 40–45 minutes, or until golden brown and cooked through.

Let rest at least 20 minutes before slicing. Traditionally served **warm or at room temperature.**