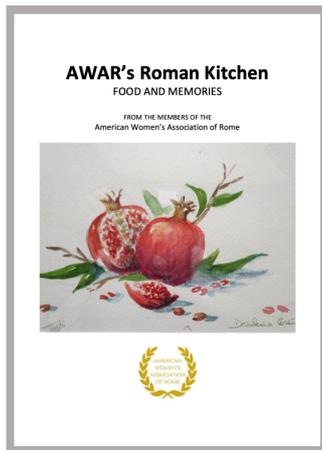




Press Release
ROME, 26 January 2021

American Women in Italy Show their Generosity by Cooking



Funds from Cookbook to be Donated to Personal Protective Equipment Fund to Aid Italian Healthcare Workers

"During the lockdown last spring, we needed an initiative to keep the nearly 200 members of the American Women's Association of Rome involved and in touch. We'd even had to postpone celebrating the 65th anniversary of AWAR's founding. Since we hadn't published a cookbook in 50+ years, that was a no-brainer. But there was more to it. Every day, we read stories and saw news reports about the courage and dedication of the brave doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers in Italy. Our hearts went out to them. We wanted to show our solidarity."

So says Maureen Fant, an award-winning cookbook author who headed the team of eight who wrote, designed, and produced the book. Their goal was to tell the story—through food—of how so many amazing women from more than a dozen countries, the members of the American Women's Association of Rome (AWAR), had come to terms with life in the Eternal City and its unique citizens. Their ultimate goal was to make enough for a donation to Italy's frontline health workers. (Because AWAR is a nonprofit organization, it doesn't sell the book. Rather, the book is given in exchange for a donation that includes a substantial charitable gift.)

Cookbooks are a tradition of clubs and other organizations in America, and AWAR was overdue for one. An email went out to the entire membership asking for favorite recipes—from anywhere but feasible in Rome—but also anecdotes and memories too.

This labor of love, titled *AWAR's Roman Kitchen: Food and Memories from the Members of the American Women's Association of Rome*, represents eight months of intense work—collecting, writing, organizing, and editing material; testing recipes; designing the book; styling and photographing recipes, and much else—almost all online with WhatsApp and Zoom or in the team members' own kitchens. The resulting volume truly represents the wonderful spirit of collaboration that flourished during this particularly challenging time. More than 40 members contributed recipes, memories, and art.

The 256-page cookbook (including 16 in full color) is a unique collection of international recipes (about half Italian), engaging stories, lots of useful information, and beautiful, original artwork and photography from members (and one husband). It's available as both a spiral-bound paperback and an e-book.

Some reader comments:

"The stories and anecdotes make this so much more than a cookbook."

"I didn't cook much during the lockdown, but this book inspires me to get back in the kitchen. I appreciate all the extra information about ingredients like anchovies and salt cod."

"The little drawings are charming, and the color photos look good enough to eat. The quotations scattered through the book are a riot."

"Some of the recipes remind me of my grandmother's."

"The design is beautiful and easy to use."

"I think I gained ten pounds just reading the dessert chapter!"

For information or to order, visit awar.org/cookbook or write awarcookbook@gmail.com. During the pandemic, we suggest you choose the dynamic e-book—it's available immediately and COVID-free.

The American Women's Association of Rome was founded in 1955 by Clare Boothe Luce, still the only woman to have served as US ambassador to Italy. Its goal is to promote bicultural awareness and friendship between the United States and Italy through social, educational, and charitable activities. The US ambassador or his/her spouse is always invited to be AWAR's honorary president. AWAR is proud of its long history of community service and works with the American Citizen Services Section of the US consulate to help Americans in distress in Rome.

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