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# Sweet Maria's Italian Cookie Tray: A Cookbook



## Synopsis

Sweet Maria's Italian Cookie Tray presents sixty-five recipes for the delicious, festive cookies that brighten every Italian home, at the holidays and all year-round. Maria Bruscano Sanchez opened Sweet Maria's bakery when she was just twenty-six years old, specializing in authentic Italian cookies and cakes made from handed-down family recipes. The result has been a booming business, and this very special cookbook. The irresistible recipes range from drop, molded and filled cookies; biscotti; taralle and biscuits; pizzelles, and more. Easy to prepare and perfect for any occasion (or no occasion at all) they include: Chocolate Almond Macaroons, Pignoli Nut Cookies, Amaretto Biscotti Sesame Cookies, Almond Crescents, Lemon Drop Cookies, Chocolate Puffs, Florentines, Lady Fingers, Sweet Ravioli Cookies, Christmas Honey Clusters, Angel Wings, Cinnamon Nut Bars, and more. Whether you grew up in an Italian home or just wish you did, this wonderful collection is sure to become a cookie lover's favorite--one you will return to again and again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Growing up in a close-knit, Italian American family, Maria Bruscano Sanchez was surrounded by tradition: food, customs, and celebrations from the "old country" were lovingly observed, and if the original meaning was sometimes hidden beneath the patina of a new culture, the respect and desire to stay connected to the past remained. As an adult, Sanchez turned family tradition into her livelihood, opening Sweet Maria's bakery in Waterbury, Connecticut, where she re-created the cakes and cookies of her youth--but with a distinctly American twist. With Sweet Maria's Italian

Cookie Tray, Sanchez offers her culinary treasures to an even wider audience; recipes range from drop and molded cookies to filled ones, biscotti and biscuits, taralle and pizelles, and many more. Cookie lovers will find plenty to devour in this compilation of Italian American favorites.

A few years ago, only a handful of Americans appreciated Italian cookies beyond the familiar amaretti. An explosion of interest in Italian cooking has changed all that, and biscotti and pizelles now appear in restaurants and bakeries from coast to coast. Sanchez, bakery owner from Waterbury, Connecticut, has built a business based on production of Italian cookies, and she now shares her recipes. Some Italian cookies, such as nut-studded biscotti, require special techniques, being twice baked (the literal meaning of biscotto). Others, including bar and drop cookies, more directly recall typical American cookies. Frizzelle, spiked with both fennel seeds and a prodigious quantity of black pepper, add a new dimension to the cookie baker's art. Sanchez's precise directions ensure consistent results in the home kitchen, but not all her required ingredients may be readily available in areas lacking Italian markets. Mark Knoblauch

I should have looked at the reviews, because the top review is right--there are no pictures which makes it hard to know what you want to make and at the same time this feels like a beginner's cook book. There is no mention of the add ins you can add to the chocolate clove cookies, and the peach cookies use peach jello powder as a coating. I'm not unhappy since it's pretty much what it says it is, but I'm fairly disgruntled at getting the equivalent of a spiral bound church cookbook in a pretty cover.

The recipes are all so familiar. Clear directions. Very simple and easy to follow. Brought back memories of my childhood and those wonderful family weddings when everyone was included in the celebration from Grandpa to the newest baby and everyone in between! I would recommend this little cook book to anyone who wants to bake up true family memories or start new traditions.

I read from beginning to end without scanning for pictures. I expected bright colorful cookies of all kinds. By starting from the beginning I realized this was the real deal. Tidbits of information, tips, family traditions, To me , very useful. But I do miss the pictures!

Very authentic recipes.

not the best

I found it to be a good cookbook as far as tasty recipes, easily accessible ingredients. However, in my opinion a very basic Italian cookie collection. If that works for you this is a good book to have.

Nice selection of Italian cookie recipes.

My Mother LOVES it!!! She actually found recipes that her mother used to make during her childhood!!! DEFINITELY HAPPY!!

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