

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910817229403321
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Titolo	Food Culture and Literary Imagination in Early Modern Italy : The Renaissance of Taste // Laura Giannetti
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Amsterdam : , : Amsterdam University Press, , [2022] ©2022
ISBN	90-485-5202-8
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (260 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Food Culture, Food History Before 1900 ; ; Volume 1
Disciplina	641.0945
Soggetti	Food - Italy - History Food habits - Italy - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Table of Contents -- Acknowledgements -- Introduction -- 1. Italian Renaissance Food-Fashioning -- 2. Sixteenth-Century Food Wars -- 3. Attending Poetic Banquets -- 4. Femininity and Food Culture in Renaissance Italy -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	As the long sixteenth century came to a close, new positive ideas of gusto/taste opened a rich counter vision of food and taste where material practice, sensory perceptions and imagination contended with traditional social values, morality, and dietetic/medical discourse. Exploring the complex and evocative ways the early modern Italian culture of food was imagined in the literature of the time, Food Culture and the Literary Imagination in Early Modern Italy reveals that while a moral and disciplinary vision tried to control the discourse on food and eating in medical and dietetic treatises of the sixteenth century and prescriptive literature, a wide range of literary works contributed to a revolution in eating and taste. In the process long held visions of food and eating, as related to social order and hierarchy, medicine, sexuality and gender, religion and morality, pleasure and the senses, were questioned, tested and overturned, and eating and its pleasures would never be the same.