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# bene



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ITALIAN LIFE & STYLE

5 ITALIAN  
DESIGNS WE LOVE  
*(Including Ravioli)*

*In our kitchens,  
SALVATORE TASSA  
& MARIO BATALI  
get saucy*

Puglia's  
Little Huts  
are the Next  
Big Thing

FASHION:  
*Italians do  
it better*



*plus:* SHOPPING IN MILAN ✦ BIKING IN PONZA ✦ WEDDINGS IN TUSCANY  
WINE TASTING IN ROME ✦ LEATHER IN FLORENCE



Wine expert **IAN D'AGATA** ("Grape Advice," page 68) believes that truly great wine should be enjoyed with friends: "I often get together with eight good friends at one of our country homes for a four-hour lunch. We have ten bottles of wine and innumerable courses. The goal is to try as many food-and-wine pairings as possible." The director of the International Wine Academy of Rome, D'Agata has been writing about food and wine for more than twenty-five years. He recently co-edited *The Guide to Italy's Best Wines 2006*. This summer he plans to explore a new corner of France and go fly-fishing for trout at sunrise in a babbling mountain stream.



Travel writer **ERIC SYLVERS** ("Staying Power," page 13; "The Moped Diaries," page 36) has lived in northern Italy for over a decade, but he still makes discoveries every time he takes a hiking or biking trip. "Last fall, I was shocked to stumble upon an incredible twelfth-century Romanic church near Lake Como after hiking for forty-five minutes through the woods," he says. Sylvers makes friends easily while traveling, but he found the people of Ponza to be especially welcoming: "The pizzeria owner and I had long chats about the island, and it was a treat to talk with the winemakers." This summer, Sylvers's love of adventure will take him to Salento, where he'll "spend time at the beach, bike the hills and eat nonstop."

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