

Europe's Top Family-Run Restaurants

Our food critic uncovers six authentic family-run restaurants where—believe it or not—Mamma is still calling the shots in the kitchen.

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By [Anya von Bremzen](#)

[Osteria di San Cesario](#)

San Cesareo, Italy

Frustrated with their city's banal offerings, Rome's food critics often head out of town. Their grail? This cult osteria, some 20 miles south of the city, presided over by the larger-than-life Anna Dente. Descended from many generations of butchers, Dente is the reigning queen of *quinto quarto* (offal, in the local vernacular), turning tripe in *salsa verde* into a refined treat and performing delicious miracles with sweetbreads and spleen. Still, the reason to come here is the pasta made by her 88-year-old mamma, Maria. When sauced with classic carbonara and *amatriciana* (both bolstered by dusky house-cured *guanciale*) the fettuccine and gnocchi restore your faith in *la vera cucina romana*. Over *ciambelle al vino* (doughnut-shaped pastries), listen to the ebullient Dente spin tall tales about her adventures in Hollywood.

Dinner for two \$105.

