

Award-winning chef, best-selling author, television personality, and philanthropist **Mario Batali's** name is synonymous with good taste. His 19 restaurants span the globe from New York to Singapore—and he's still not full. This month, Batali serves up his most passionate project yet, *Molto Batali: Simple Family Meals from My Home to Yours* (Ecco). Pictured here, Batali's kitchen at his home in New York City.



These are bakery-string holders from the 1950s. My wife, Susi, collects them from all over.

MY KITCHEN

Mario Batali

We always have wine, hot sauce, jam, carrots, and celery.

These are my "finishers." Finishing food is about the tiny touches. In the last seconds you can change everything.

My espresso-maker, one of the most used items in the kitchen.

Rachael Ray gave me this for my birthday. It says, "An apple a day."

Jimmy Fallon came over for a Super Bowl party, but he played a practical joke by coming in full Cinco de Mayo costume. He brought all of us these mustaches.

These knives are made in the Tuscan town of Lucca.

Flea designed this lunchbox for the Lunchbox Fund Auction.

This windup toy was designed by a friend of mine.

Natasha Richardson and I were having a pretty hot and heavy food affair—and she made this plum jam. I haven't decided if I'll open it or not.

My family makes these vinegars—out of everything from grapes to peaches and cherries. We go through the whole process with the giant vat and drainer, label them, and give them as Christmas presents.

My son Benno made this mug for me.

My babysitter brought this salt back from Mexico.

Everyone makes pesto in a food processor. But the texture is better with a mortar and pestle, and it's just as fast.

I put hibiscus flower in every cup of tea I have. It's sweet, sexy, and cleansing.

This salami is from my dad's sandwich shop, Salumi, in Seattle. People literally sit on the curb and eat the sandwiches. They're incredible.

Cooking salt and finishing salt in one neat container.

No one has these floors and everyone wants them—the floor never looks dirty!

GROOMING BY MARGRET AVERY