

Cesare Casella

As hardworking owners of Il Vipore, a Tuscan trattoria, Cesare Casella's parents fancied that their only son would become a great doctor. To their chagrin, he followed family tradition. In 1993, Cesare came to New York City as executive chef of the famed Coco Pazzo and later launched Il Toscanaccio and Il Cantinori. His first solo restaurant, Beppe, opened in 2001 to critical and public acclaim, followed by Maremma.

This past fall, Cesare opened Salumeria Rosi, an intimate specialty Italian grocery and cafe on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Cesare is also the dean of The Italian Culinary Academy and has written three books: *Diary of a Tuscan Chef*, *Italian Cooking for Dummies*, and, most recently, *True Tuscan*. He also has a line of heirloom beans, grains, and spices known as Republic of Beans.