

Ambassador

National Italian American Foundation

Vol . 26, No.2 - Winter 2014 - www.niaf.org

*Buon
Natale!*

**Chefs Special!
Regional Italian Holiday Cuisine**

Gift Ideas for Travelers

Capri's Heights of Beauty

Soppresata and Soupies

NIAF's 2014 Photo Contest Winners

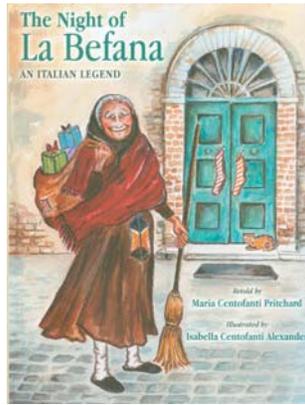


If you're familiar with La Befana, the ancient Italian folklore tale, you know why Italian children hang stockings or put their shoes outside the door on the night before the Epiphany.

With its simple illustrations and traditional narrative style, this book retells the legend that is as much a part of Christmastime in Italy as Santa Claus is in America.

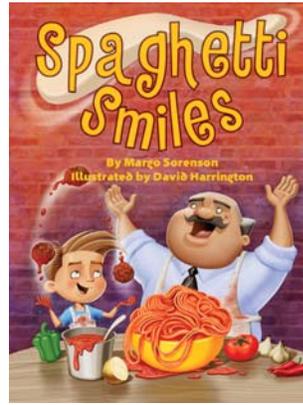
It's the story of one miraculous night when a sad and lonely old woman meets the Three Wise Men searching for the newborn Christ child—and her life changes.

This is a sweet way to introduce your children (ages 6-12) to the Befana tale. And the recipes at the end ensure you'll be able to make Befana cookies and Lump-of-Coal cookies to hand out just like Befana does. Available at www.italianchildrensmarket.com and www.thenightoflabefana.com.



Spaghetti Smiles

By Margo Sorenson
Illustrated by David Harrington
Pelican Publishing Co.; 32 pages;
\$16.99 hardcover



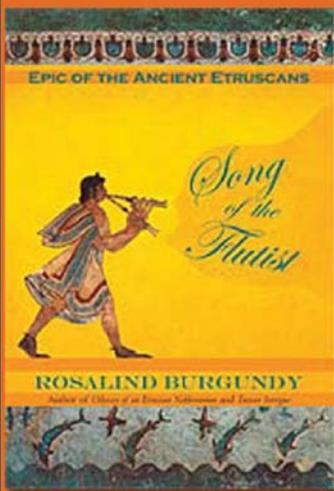
Sort of the favorite Italian-restaurant cousin of the classic "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs," this humorous children's adventure stars Jake, a boy who loves hanging out at Rocco's Italian Restaurant after school. He and his Uncle Rocco read books and play crazy games together, such as bowling with mozzarella balls and juggling ravioli (with sauce)—which makes for colorful illustrations better than good sense. But, hey, this is a storybook for kids (ages 5-8).

And it's a sweet story, too, with some good lessons about business and family. See, Uncle Rocco's restaurant may have to shut down unless a new tenant moves in next door. So, Jake scours the neighborhood for a business to match up with wacky, fun-loving Uncle Rocco's. Pizza, anyone? ▲

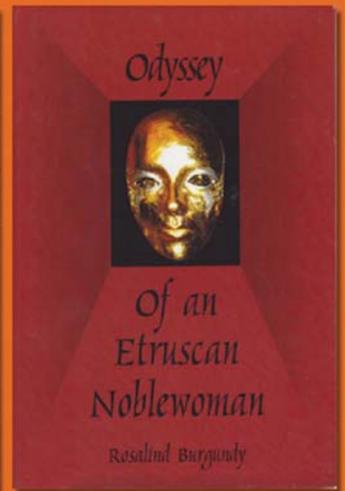
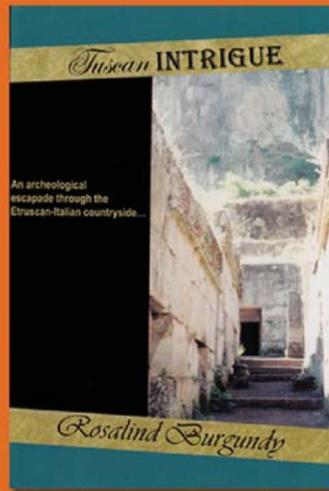
—Don Oldenburg

Jake rushed into Rocco's Italian Restaurant. "Uncle Rocco!" Jake said. "I have a new book to read to you!"
"Ciao, Jake," Uncle Rocco sighed. "I don't think you'll be able to read to me in the restaurant anymore. I have big problems!"

Roots of your Italian Soul



Read ROSALIND BURGUNDY'S
ETRUSCAN HISTORICAL NOVELS



Available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, kindle. See: www.etruscan-italy.com