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ALEXANDRIA, VA – You don't have to dine out to enjoy a memorable meal. These days, more and more of us are finding that our favorite meals, the ones we cherish the most, are those we prepare in our own home and share with family and friends around the dining room table or on the backyard patio.

Cookbook author Domenica Marchetti brings her appealing specialties to the table in *Big Night In: More than 100 Wonderful Recipes for Feeding Friends and Family, Italian-Style*. Appetizers like Mini Rice Croquettes or Stuffed Olives are the ideal welcome whether you're having a few friends over or hosting a cocktail party. For dinner, treat a group of friends to Chestnut Honey-Glazed Country Pork Ribs, Seafood Risotto with Prosecco, or Chicken, Eggplant, and Potato Torta. Finales like Apricot Semifreddo and Mocha Grappa Torte with Walnuts ensure your Big Night In is unforgettable.

Ms. Marchetti presents practical information on organizing get-togethers, from a small dinner party for 6 to feeding a crowd Italian-style, as well as information on equipment, ingredients, and cooking techniques. Included are her 10 essential tips for creating a Big Night In without a big fuss. (Tip No. 7: "Please stay away from scented candles. They will interfere with all the wonderful aromas emanating from your kitchen and give everyone a headache.")

With appetizers and antipasti, soups and salads, pasta, rice and savory tortes, great main courses, side dishes and indulgent desserts, *Big Night In* gives you everything you need to casually entertain at home. There's even a brunch menu for those wanting a 'big morning in.' Let *Big Night In* help you create the treasured experience of sharing a meal with those you love.

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