

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

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Page turners

By Sara Pearce

“Passion on the Vine: A Memoir of Food, Wine and Family in the Heart of Italy” by Sergio Esposito (Broadway, \$24.95). Esposito writes, “America was my father, but Italy was my mother.”

He was born near Naples and came to the U.S. as a boy but would return to Italy many times after discovering his love of wine and a desire to promote Italian wines. He turned his passion for Italian wines that reveal the character of the winemaker and of the land (“wine is a divine creation”) into Italian Wine Merchants, a New York shop renowned for its large selection of Italian vintages.

My husband gave me the book for Mother’s Day. Being 100 percent Italian, I laughed out loud at the truths he humorously reveals about his family, their roots and Italian culture. As Esposito says:

“Italian culture, in its truest form, is also relentless. Italians are a people bound—nearly to the point of strangulation—to their past...They cling to all that is Italian...and they don’t get bored by their recipes—when something’s good, why change it?”