



## Rocco DiSpirito

Celebrity chef and author Rocco DiSpirito combines his world-class cooking with a passion for empowering home cooks. The James Beard award-winning chef began his career in a Queen's pizzeria at age 11. Graduating with honors from the Culinary Institute of America, in 1997, Rocco opened the 3-star Union Pacific in New York City where he established his culinary credentials. He was named *Food & Wine's* Best New Chef and—as the first chef to grace its cover—was called “America’s Most Exciting Young Chef” by *Gourmet*. In 2003 he launched Rocco’s for NBC’s “The Restaurant,” and in 2004, he hosted “Food Talk with Rocco” on WOR 710AM. His new television series, “Rocco Gets Real,” launched on A&E in October 2008, coinciding with the publication of its companion cookbook, *ROCCO GETS REAL: Cook at Home Every Day*. His cookbooks include *Rocco's Real-Life Recipes*, *Rocco's Italian American*, *Rocco's Five Minute Flavor*, and his James Beard award-winning *Flavor*, which *New York* magazine summed up as, “Dare I whisper, genius?” Rocco appears regularly on “Rachel Ray”, “The Biggest Loser” and “Top Chef.”

Rocco lives in NYC and competes in triathlons.