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Al Dente

East Coast Bays, Auckland

Raffaella Delmonte emigrated to New Zealand with her husband Paolo in the 1990s to escape the pressures of Italian city life, and built a very fine house that smacks of Tuscany deep in the heart of Auckland's

North Shore. She's the author of *The Fragrance of Basil*, which won a Gourmand World Cookbook Award in 2002, and is the local co-ordinator for the Slow Food movement. As well as catering, she runs one-day courses from home, in which you will learn about Italian food, home style. It's the kind of course we like: turn up, hang about in someone's kitchen, cook, eat, drink. "Our customers are our friends, they have been invited to have fun while sharing our home and passion for cooking," says Delmonte.

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Photographs Juliana Vermaak

