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***CIAO ITALIA* GETS FIRST NEW KITCHEN
SINCE SHOW'S FIRST SEASON**

**See It at Reception for Mary Ann Esposito as *Ciao Italia*
Returns to Rhode Island to Film Twentieth Season**

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND (May 12, 2008) What avid cook doesn't dream of a new kitchen make-over? Of course, sometimes it takes a while to make the re-do dream a reality. How about 20 years?

That's how long it's been since Mary Ann Esposito – chef, author, and host of TV's longest running cooking show, *Ciao Italia* – had a brand new kitchen for her television show.

And now the public is invited to get a sneak preview of that new kitchen at a reception on **Sunday afternoon, June 8** from 3 to 5 PM at Rhode Island PBS studios, 50 Park Lane in Providence, RI.

The crew of *Ciao Italia* is back in Rhode Island to film the kitchen cooking scenes for the new 2009 season of *Ciao Italia*. That means reception guests will see and tour the kitchen set a full year in advance of its debut to the rest of the country on TV next year.

Ciao Italia Reception at Rhode Island PBS Studios

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Mary Ann and *Ciao Italia* Executive Producer Paul Lally will provide a behind-the-scenes tour and share anecdotes about what it takes to produce a cooking show. *Ciao Italia* films segments of each episode on location in Italy each year as part of the series. Regional recipes are made in the studio kitchens in Rhode Island, filmed at Rhode Island PBS studios. Of the 26 season episodes, 23 are filmed in Rhode Island in only two weeks.

Refreshments will be served at the reception and will include Mary Ann's favorite antipasto recipe, wine and soft beverages, and desserts. *Ciao Italia* cookbooks will be available for purchase; Mary Ann will autograph new books. Guests are encouraged to bring their own cameras to take photos.

Tickets are \$50 per person. Space is limited. For reservations, call 401-222-3636, extension 204, or email lburch@ripbs.org.

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