



Feast of the Seven Fishes

Chef Bryant Wigger's Celebration of the Traditional Italian Christmas Eve Meal

One Night Only - December 24th
Regular Dinner Menu also Available

Baccala Montecato

Salt Cod, Yukon Gold Potato,
Gaeta Olives, Cauliflower Passato

Branzino En Saor

Seared Branzino, Sweet Onion Agrodolce,
Currents, White Polenta

Cacciucco

Tuscan Seafood Stew, Prawns, Sturgeon,
Calamari, Octopus, Black Mussels,
Tomato-Saffron Brodo

Dolci

Chef's Selection of Gelati and Italian Cookies

\$55

The Meaning of the Feast of the Seven Fishes

The Feast of the Seven Fishes is an Italian Christmas celebration that typically consists of seven (or more) kinds of seafood (or seafood dishes). This celebration commemorates the wait for the midnight birth of the baby Jesus. The long tradition of eating seafood on Christmas Eve dates from the Catholic tradition of fasting from meat on holy days. Today many take this fast and turn it into a feast.

There are many hypotheses for what the number seven represents. Some say the number represents completion, as shown in Genesis: "By the seventh day God completed the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work." During the feast of the seven fishes, participants celebrate the completion of God's promise of the Messiah through baby Jesus. Other theories include: that the number represents the seven Sacraments and that seven is a number representing perfection: the traditional Biblical number for divinity is three, and for Earth is four, and the combination of these numbers, seven, represents God on Earth, or Jesus Christ.

The seafood stew we will serve "Cacciucco" has some interesting numbers behind it as well. The letter "c" appears in the word "Cacciucco" five times. Many say that is for the five "seas" that touch Italy and also for five kinds of seafood in Cacciucco. Those five kinds of seafood plus those in the two other courses make up our Feast of the Seven Fishes. Enjoy and Buon Natale to all!