world has offered for a few seasons."

son who also authored, "The World Atlas of Wine" also hosts a public television series. Vintage, of which this book is the companion. The text is splendidly written and beautifully il-lustrated. This ambitious, literary work begins with man's first encounter with alcohol continuing through the ages. This is an indispensable reference book that's not overly technical and never dull.

"The Renaissance of Italian Cooking" by Lorenza de Medici is as beautiful to look at as it is to read. This layish, coffee table type book — although filled with color photos — should not be underestimated as a worthy, gastronumie coakbook.

Author Lorenza de'Medici is an ac-Author Lorenza de Aleder San ac-knowledged authority of Italy's culi-nary history. She has written over 20 cookbooks including "Italy: The Beautiful Cookbook."

AS A DESCENDANT OF the Renaissance Medicis. Lorenza de'Medici reveals the refined cooking methods perfected by the great old Italian families. The recipes are simple yet sophis-ticated. Many of them have been passed down by her ancestors and are

arranged in menus.

In addition to the elegant recipes. there are nearly 200 color photos taken by John Ferro Sims. The book is interwoven with personal family anecdates and photos of the most spectacular homes in Italy, including the de Medici 11th century abbey and

wine estate in Tuscany.

"The Renaissance of Italian Cooking by Lorenza de'Medici. (Fawcett. Columbine Publishing, \$30, 1989)."

Geri Rinschler is a free-lance writer whose columns on food and book reviews appear often in the Observer & Eccentric Taste section.

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