



Wednesday, January 16, 2008

La Festa di Sant' Antonio Abate

On or around January 17, the official feast day of S. Antonio Abate, churches throughout Italy are inundated with animals and their owners, who come for a ceremony known as the "Blessing of the Animals." This celebration honors Sant' Antonio, the patron saint of animals, but dates back to an ancient Roman pre-spring fertility festival known as the Ferie Sementine. On the day of the festival, work animals were given a symbolic day off, while their owners sought the gods' divine protection for the creatures upon whom their livelihoods depended.

Nowadays, the animals blessed are more likely to be pampered pets than beasts of burden.

ANTIPASTO

Grigliata Mista di Pesci

Mixed Grill of Fish, Scallop, and Shrimp with Salsa Verde

Conti Attems Collio Sauvignon 2005



PRIMO

Tortelloni

Fresh Pasta with Goat Cheese, Dried Orange, and Fennel Pollen

Marchesi de' Frescobaldi Castiglioni Chianti 2005



SECONDO

Scaloppine alla Parmigiana

Veal Scaloppine with Eggplant, Tomato, and Fontina

Lucente Toscana 2004



DOLCE

Sofficini con Crema di Pasticciera

Fried Pastry with Wild Berries and Fresh Sorbet

Ben Ryé Passito di Pantelleria 2005

**Cost: \$55.00 per person
Call for Reservations: 303-938-8800**