

## CHEF CESARE CASELLA



### Chief of the Department of Nourishment Arts®

Cesare Casella, Chief of The Center's Department of Nourishment Arts® (DNA), oversees our farming, nutritional and culinary programs; is a world renown chef, restaurateur, and educator; and began his journey to The Center for Discovery before he even knew TCFD existed.

Growing up in the Tuscan countryside, Chef Casella started his culinary career at Vipore, his family's restaurant, where he also raised chickens and pigs, made cheese and salumi, and cultivated dozens of herbs in his "arometo," or aroma garden.

After helping his parents transform Vipore into a Michelin-starred trattoria, Chef Casella moved to New York City in the early 1990s and began to share his passion for Italian food with others. He opened and operated critically acclaimed restaurants including Beppe, Maremma, and Salumeria Rosi; wrote cookbooks such as the 2013 James Beard Foundation nominee, *The Fundamentals of Classic Italian Cuisine* (2012), and co-wrote *Feeding the Heart* (2016) with TCFD CEO, Patrick H. Dollard; and served as the dean of the Italian Studies division of the International Culinary Center, from 2005 to 2020.

Today, as Chief of the DNA, Chef Casella has returned to his roots, cultivating the highest quality foods in the most breathtaking of rural settings. He oversees our production of livestock, vegetables, fruit, honey, bread, and even Canestrino tomatoes whose seeds were imported from his native Tuscany.

Chef Casella's most recent initiative with The Center is the Acetaia del Sole, a craft-vinegar workshop that specializes in the ancestral method, the slowest of all vinegar-making styles. Acetaia del Sole focuses primarily on apple cider vinegars, using organic apples which have lower sugar and greater health benefits than grapes used in wine-based vinegars. But it also produces a variety of other vinegars, including ones made from honey, tomatoes and fennel, all grown on The Center's farms.



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