

## From Emilia-Romagna, with Relish

Take a journey to the birthplace of some of Italy's most famous food



Food is a central part of Italian culture and nowhere is it more apparent than in Emilia-Romagna. Credit: Chang Duong/Unsplash

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The air was brisk but clear in late February, permeating with the scent of woodsmoke and budding wildflowers. Wide expanses of flat, fertile land, ripening for the spring, stretched as far as I could see. I had just arrived by train\* in Emilia-Romagna, a verdant region in northern Italy synonymous with gastronomy.

This was the birthplace of it all, all that iconic Italian food enjoyed around the world. As I calmly sauntered through the streets of Parma, Reggio Emilia and Modena, I sensed immediately that something was different here, that food isn't just fuel. It feeds the soul. Couple that with a proud and passionate people and you have a recipe for culinary excellence rarely found elsewhere.