

cutting edge



saladini knives

by gwen mcnamara

Those who care deeply about all things culinary, take note. Saladini knives, hand hewn using centuries-old methods in Scarperia, Italy, combine stylish appeal with solid functionality. With blades of Swiss steel and handles of horn and Italian olive wood, these knives are as much a pleasure to hold as they are to use.

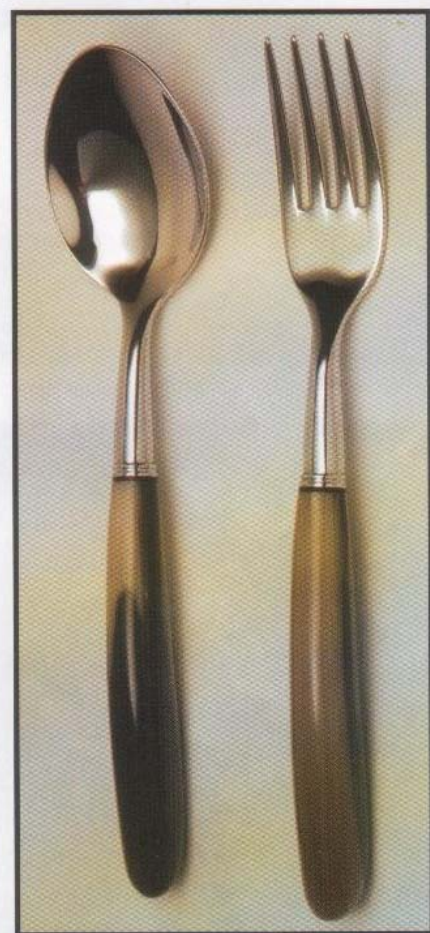
"Scarperia is famous for knife-making," says Wendy Evans, co-owner of Tuscan Hills on Nassau Street in Princeton, the only U.S. location where Saladini knives are available. "Craftsmen in the region made swords and weaponry for the Medici family, the ruling family of Florence, for centuries."

Over time, the townspeople expanded their artistry. Originally

adept at forging iron and steel, they slowly evolved from crafting weapons to designing knives and cutlery.

"Today Scarperia is known as the 'town of knives,'" adds Greg Evans, Ms. Evans' husband and counterpart at Tuscan Hills. "And although the steel now comes from Switzerland (which is internationally known for quality steel) and the horn from Africa, the olive wood is from Italy and all aspects of production are performed in Scarperia."

The Saladini company, family-owned and operated since 1850, prides itself on this tradition, keeping operations small and shaping each steel blade and polishing each handle of ox horn or olive wood by hand.



All Saladini products — including the hard-cheese fork and knife, truffle or cheese spreader, steak knives, corkscrew, salad servers, cutting board and six-piece knife set with olive wood stand — are expected to last a lifetime.



The town of Scarperia is famous for turning out cutlery that is renowned for its quality and design. These corkscrews (at left and below) are as much pieces of art as they are functional utensils.

With a 100-percent guarantee, all of Saladini's products — including the hard-cheese fork and knife, truffle or cheese shredder, steak knives, corkscrew, salad servers, cutting board and six-piece knife set with olive wood stand — are expected to last a lifetime.

"Saladini is recognized for their specialty in Italy," Ms. Evans says. "Now a new generation is thinking more globally, and the rest of the world is discovering what makes this small company so special."

Packaged in simple, yet elegant pewter-colored boxes that accentuate the swirling grains of the wood and rich tones of the ox horn, the knives and other accoutrements are priced between \$60 and \$900.

With a balanced feel and solid construction, Saladini knives are sure to sweeten the cooking experience of novice and expert alike.

To learn more, visit Tuscan Hills' showroom at 342 Nassau Street in Princeton, call (609) 921-9015 or go online to www.tuscan-hills.com. ■



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