



247 centre street floor 2 nyc ny 10013  
p 212.274.1989 • f 212.274.1644 • <http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com/DVDpressroom> **For**  
**home media requests contact Patrick Higgins at [patrick@zeitgeistfilms.com](mailto:patrick@zeitgeistfilms.com)**

## **FOOD & FRIENDSHIP DURING A GORGEOUS ROMAN SUMMER: “MID-AUGUST LUNCH” COMES TO DVD OCTOBER 5TH**

New York (August 12, 2010) — An enchanting and effervescent critics' favorite that has charmed audiences across the nation, *Mid-August Lunch (Pranzo di Ferragosto)* is both a warmly vibrant family drama and a delicately balanced comedy of manners.

**Hot off its wildly successful summer theatrical release with \$650,000 in U.S. box office, *Mid-August Lunch* comes to DVD on October 5, 2010.**

The charismatic Gianni Di Gregorio (**co-writer of the smash hit *Gomorrah***), stars in his directorial debut—an utterly charming tale of great food, feisty ladies and unlikely friendships during a very Roman holiday. Broke, and armed with only a glass of wine and a wry sense of humor, middle-aged Gianni resides with his 93-year-old mother in their ancient apartment. The condo debts are mounting, but if Gianni looks after the building manager's mother during the Pranzo di Ferragosto (Italy's biggest summer holiday, and the Feast of the Assumption), all will be forgiven. Then the manager also shows up with an auntie, and then a doctor friend appears with *his* mother in tow.... Can Gianni keep four such lively mamas well fed and happy in these cramped quarters?

Also a winner of numerous prizes at international festivals, *Mid-August Lunch* was awarded Best First Film and Best Italian Film at Venice; the Satyajit Ray Award at London; and the Golden Snail at the Academy of Food and Film in Bologna.

Zeitgeist's DVD release of *Mid-August Lunch* features a new anamorphic transfer, created from hi-def elements. The extras include a very charming “**Visit with the Cast,**” in which director Gianni Di Gregorio travels Rome to catch up with the film's actresses; a video interview with the director; and an 8-page booklet featuring recipes from the film and more.

***Mid-August Lunch* Film/DVD info: 2009 • 75 minutes • Italy • Color • In Italian with optional English subtitles • 1.85:1 theatrical aspect ratio • Stereo • Not Rated • Cat. No. Z1129 • UPC 795975112932 • SRP \$29.99**

***Note: Zeitgeist's DVD release of Mid-August Lunch is available in the U.S. only.***

Celebrating more than 20 years as one of America's preeminent independent distributors, New York-based **Zeitgeist Films** has built an impressively diverse catalogue of foreign, documentary and arthouse titles by such renowned directors as Todd Haynes, Jan Svankmajer, Peter Greenaway, Abbas Kiarostami, Guy Maddin, Kirby Dick, Atom Egoyan, Agnès Varda, François Ozon, Derek Jarman, Yvonne Rainer, Olivier Assayas, Philippe Garrel, Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Carlos Saura and the Quay Brothers. Current and upcoming releases: Italian crowd-pleaser *Mid-August Lunch* (from the creators of *Gomorrah*); and *Vision – From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen*, directed by New German Cinema legend Margarethe von Trotta and starring Barbara Sukowa (*Zentropa, Berlin Alexanderplatz*). In August 2010, Zeitgeist also became the exclusive home media distributor of KimStim, an eclectic and adventurous Brooklyn, New York-based arthouse label with a library of 50+ films from groundbreaking directors including Alain Resnais, Raul Ruiz, André Techiné, Chantal Akerman, François Ozon, Laurent Cantet, Seijun Suzuki, Jafar Panahi, Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Abbas Kiarostami and Otar Iosseliani.



247 centre street floor 2 nyc ny 10013  
p 212.274.1989 • f 212.274.1644 • <http://www.zeitgeistfilms.com/DVDpressroom> **For**  
**home media requests contact Patrick Higgins at [patrick@zeitgeistfilms.com](mailto:patrick@zeitgeistfilms.com)**

## CRITICAL ACCLAIM FOR “MID-AUGUST LUNCH”

**#1 EDITORS PICK** for “Dinner Theater: Unsung and Delicious Food-Focused Films” — *Saveur* magazine

“The table is set for this **VERY ITALIAN, VERY FUNNY**, yet touching movie. It captures the essence of living the Italian life and the universal need for friendship and human contact at any age.” —Chef and restaurateur Lidia Bastianich

“**LUMINOUS!** The movie’s scenes of food preparation are mouthwatering....” —Stephen Holden, *The New York Times*

“**A MOUTHWATERING CINEMATIC FEAST!** —Kevin B. Lee, *Time Out New York* (Critic’s Pick)

“**4 STARS!** Contains enough warmth and humanity to fill a dozen multiplexes.” — *Top Chef* judge Toby Young

“Quirky, cute film embodiment of **ITALIAN SWEET-LIFE** mentality.” —*Condé Nast Traveler*

“From its first minutes, *Mid-August Lunch* establishes a special tone and quality that could only be Italian. It’s **A MIXTURE OF WARMTH AND GENTLE FARCE**, tender observation and absurdity.” —Mick LaSalle, *San Francisco Chronicle*

“**CHARMING!** Good food, wine, and company....” —Regina Ragone, Food Director, *Family Circle*

“**A PLEASANT TASTE OF ROMAN LIFE!** Four women, accustomed to the isolation of widowhood, trade stories and recipes and enjoy their accidental community.... **THEIR JOY IN LIFE IS CONTAGIOUS.**”  
—Carrie Rickey, *Philadelphia Inquirer*

“The golden-girl ladies, non-actors all, are splendidly cast and **SWEETLY WINNING!**” —Gerald Peary, *Boston Phoenix*

“**EXCEPTIONAL!** —Stanley Kauffmann, *The New Republic*

“**4 STARS! A PERFECT blend of calm execution and uninflected farce.**” —Wesley Morris, *The Boston Globe*

“**VERY FUNNY**, very subtly observed. A delightful feat!” —Nicolas Rapold, *Film Comment*

“**Will make you hungry for a home-cooked Italian dinner, washed down by bountiful wine.**”  
—V.A. Musetto, *The New York Post*

“**AN EVANESCENT PLEASURE!**” —Sam Adams, *Philadelphia City Paper*

“**GRADE A!** You can almost taste the **SCRUMPTIOUS** Italian dishes that are prepared and feel the love these initially cantankerous women develop for each other.” —Stephen Schaefer, *The Boston Herald*

“These women are **MARVELOUS!** I couldn’t take my eyes off them.” —Kimberley Jones, *Austin Chronicle*

“*Mid-August Lunch* is a **SWEET-SPIRITED GEM, WARMLY COMIC** while showing the hassles of caring for aging relatives more honestly than 10 family sagas from Hollywood.” —Colin Covert, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*