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It was a dream of mine since I was 6 years old to learn Italian and live in Italy. I am of Italian heritage, but my Americanized family lost touch with the motherland, they thought “ice-a box-a” was Italian for refrigerator! I studied the language then was an exchange student from UC Berkeley during my Junior year at Ca’Foscari, the University in Venice, Italy, and it changed my life. After graduation, I moved to NYC and eventually wrote a business plan for a trimmings business and implemented it with the idea that I would cultivate a client base then leverage it with an Italian mill. It’s been a twisty road but in essence, that is what I have done.

The ability to work at Classical Elements’ factory in Torino (Turin) and communicate with all the machine workers and engineers in Italian not only is my dream come true but makes me better at my job of designer and agent. When I am there, usually 10 day stretches at a time, I stay with the mill owners on their amazing farm which cultivates cattle, chickens, fruits and vegetables. My evenings are filled with learning new recipes and cooking techniques, like canning marmalades or making Piemontese risotto, from the “mamma”. My experience there has educated me about the importance of farm to table cooking, and eating slow foods. As a result, our family moved to a more country-like setting in Westchester County, 45 minutes north of NYC. We are neighbors with a wonderful livestock farm, we eat “as close to the earth” as possible, grow vegetables, belong to a farmer’s food



coop and both our children, Giovanna and Wilton, take classes at a “farm school”. I credit my experiences in Italy to this lifestyle change, having grown up a suburban tennis playing kid, and I am educating myself as I educate my family in the importance of sustainable farming for our health and for the health of our environment. Raising chickens is next on my list, keep your peepers peeped for a feathered trim collection!