



Montaigne and Cardinal Carafa's *maître d'hôtel*

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Abstract: The *Essais* mention a conversation Montaigne had with Cardinal Caraffa's majordomo. This meeting took place before his travel in Italy. Its account concerns literature more than biography: it points out Montaigne as a reader of Italian gastronomy books, which he used in a satirical intention linked to the contemporary anti-Italian debate.

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