

Pasta shapes and sauces

Shape	Family	Best with	Cook (min)
Spaghetti	Long	Tomato, olive oil and garlic, carbonara, clams	9–11
Linguine	Long	Seafood, pesto, light cream sauces	9–11
Bucatini	Long	Amatriciana, rich tomato sauces	9–11
Capellini (angel hair)	Long	Light broths, delicate oil and tomato sauces	3–5
Fettuccine	Ribbon	Cream and butter sauces (Alfredo), ragù	10–12
Tagliatelle	Ribbon	Bolognese ragù, mushrooms	7–10
Pappardelle	Ribbon	Hearty meat and game ragùs	7–10
Lasagne sheets	Sheet	Baked layered dishes	8–10 (or no-boil)
Penne	Short tube	Arrabbiata, vodka sauce, baked dishes	10–13
Rigatoni	Short tube	Chunky meat sauces, baked pasta	11–13
Ziti	Short tube	Baked ziti, tomato sauces	11–14
Macaroni (elbows)	Short tube	Cheese sauces, salads	7–9
Paccheri	Short tube	Seafood and chunky sauces	12–15
Fusilli	Short twisted	Pesto, light tomato sauces, salads	10–12
Rotini	Short twisted	Pasta salads, vegetable sauces	8–10
Gemelli	Short twisted	Pesto, light sauces	10–12
Farfalle (bow ties)	Short shaped	Light cream or tomato sauces, salads	11–13
Orecchiette	Short shaped	Broccoli rabe and sausage, vegetable sauces	10–13
Conchiglie (shells)	Short shaped	Meat sauces, cheese sauces; large shells for stuffing	9–12
Cavatappi	Short twisted	Cheese and cream sauces	8–10
Radiatori	Short shaped	Thick sauces that cling to ridges	9–11
Campanelle	Short shaped	Thick cream and cheese sauces	10–12

Shape	Family	Best with	Cook (min)
Gnocchi (potato)	Dumpling	Butter and sage, tomato, pesto	2–4 (fresh)
Orzo	Soup	Soups, salads, side dishes	8–10
Ditalini	Soup	Minestrone, pasta e fagioli	8–10
Stelline (stars)	Soup	Clear broths for children	5–6
Ravioli	Stuffed	Butter and sage, light tomato	4–6 (fresh)
Tortellini	Stuffed	Broth (in brodo), cream sauces	3–5 (fresh)
Cannelloni	Stuffed / baked	Filled with ricotta and spinach, baked in sauce	Baked
Manicotti	Stuffed / baked	Cheese filling baked in tomato sauce	Baked

Notes