A Guided Experience of the Tenement Museum, Essex Market, with a Tasting from a Specialty Vendor
(120 minutes/15 people per group)

Visit the 1930s home of Adolpho and Rosaria Baldizzi, immigrants from Sicily who lived at 97 Orchard Street with their children, Josephine and Johnny. Afterwards, your group will take a trip to Essex Market, a Lower East Side institution since 1940. Learn about the history of the market, taste samples from a local vendor, and visit the Tenement Museum’s pop-up exhibit highlighting the food stories from our collection, Your Story, Our Story.

After visiting the home of the Baldizzi family, discover how they shopped and ate during the Great Depression, exploring food’s integral role in immigration history, the neighborhood, and the wider American culture. Meet with the owners of Mille Nonne, a modern Italian vendor in Essex Market, and learn how they uphold their Italian food traditions in the historic marketplace. Your group will be invited to ask questions and think of how food impacts their understanding of their own family history.

At the end of the visit, your group will be able to explore the market’s many sights and sounds on their own.

Booking through June 2023
Email events@tenement.org or call 646-518-3060 for more information
About Mille Nonne

Owned and operated by husband and wife, Pilar and Bernardo, Mille Nonne, located in Essex Market, offers Italian comfort food with a healthy and sustainable approach. Mille Nonne, translated to mean 1,000 grandmothers, pays homage to Italian culinary traditions while taking a modern, zero-waste and creative approach to dishes and adding personal touch. Pilar came to NYC with her mom’s hand-written recipes in a notebook and the dream to share her innovative vision and signature recipes with the people of New York.

About Essex Market

Essex Market has been a fixture on the Lower East Side since 1818 when it began as a covered market on Grand Street between Essex and Ludlow streets, where independent pushcart peddlers sold everything from potatoes and herring to pickles and hats. In the early years, Essex Market’s identity was shaped by the Lower East Side’s Jewish and Italian immigrants, who served as both the merchants and the customers.

In May 2019, Essex Market moved to a new home that lies at the cornerstone of the Essex Crossing development project. This larger, more modern space allowed the market to invite new vendors to join the Essex Market family. Though in a new space, Essex Market continues to be a public market, allowing vendors the same opportunity to continue serving residents – old and new- with both affordable and specialty foods.

About the Tenement Museum

Since 1988, the Museum has forged emotional connections between visitors and im/migrants past and present, through educator-led tours of its historic tenement buildings on Orchard Street and the surrounding neighborhood. The Museum tells the stories of working-class tenement residents, who moved to New York City from other countries and other parts of the country. While textbooks often overlook the stories of ordinary people, our tours immerse visitors in the tenement kitchens and parlors where families carved out new lives. We share primary sources and research that helps us explore the stories of tenement families and their stories help us understand our history. We aim to build an inclusive and expansive American identity and believe that the exploration of our complex history—one with moments of both inclusion and exclusion—helps prepare us to recognize and discuss today’s complex issues with empathy and nuance.