1. **Mid-August Lunch**  
*Italy, 2008*  
This cinema verité gem, set in mid-summer Rome, follows a middle-aged slacker called upon to feed and entertain four elderly ladies. Now in U.S. theaters.

2. **The Fish Fall in Love**  
*Iran, 2006*  
In this elegy to post-revolutionary Iran, a freed prisoner returns to his house, only to find that his former lover has opened a restaurant inside it. On DVD.

3. **Kitchen Stories**  
*Sweden, 2003*  
This spoof of Sweden's social experiments in the 1950s depicts a researcher studying the kitchen habits of Norwegian men. Instead of data, he finds friendship over coffee and herring. On DVD.

4. **Dinner Rush**  
*USA, 2001*  
A winning twist on mob-movie conventions: gangland murder, gorgeous food, and Danny Aiello as a beleaguered New York restaurateur and bookie. On DVD.

5. **The Great Chef: Peking Restaurant**  
*South Korea, 1999*  
The inexperienced Yang takes over a shuttered restaurant and revives its famous noodle dish; a cinematic love letter to Korean-Chinese cooking. On DVD.