



A Cook's Tour: Global Adventures in Extreme Cuisines

By Anthony Bourdain

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The only thing "gonzo gastronome" and internationally bestselling author Anthony Bourdain loves as much as cooking is traveling. Inspired by the question, "What would be the perfect meal?," Tony sets out on a quest for his culinary holy grail, and in the process turns the notion of "perfection" inside out. From California to Cambodia, *A Cook's Tour* chronicles the unpredictable adventures of America's boldest and bravest chef.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A Cook's Tour is the written record of Anthony Bourdain's travels around the world in his search for the perfect meal. All too conscious of the state of his 44-year-old knees after a working life standing at restaurant stoves, but with the unlooked-for jackpot of *Kitchen Confidential* as collateral, Mr. Bourdain evidently concluded he needed a bit more wind under his wings.

The idea of "perfect meal" in this context is to be taken to mean not necessarily the most upscale, chi-chi, three-star dining experience, but the ideal combination of food, atmosphere, and company. This would take in fishing villages in Vietnam, bars in Cambodia, and Tuareg camps in Morocco (roasted sheep's testicle, as it happens); it would stretch to smoked fish and sauna in the frozen Russian countryside and the French Laundry in California's Napa Valley. It would mean exquisitely refined *kaiseki* rituals in Japan after yakitori with drunken salarymen. Deep-fried Mars Bars in Glasgow and Gordon Ramsay in London. The still-beating heart of a cobra in Saigon. Drink. Danger. Guns. All with a TV crew in tow for the accompanying series--22 episodes of video gold, we are assured, featuring many don't-try-this-at-home shots of the author in gastric distress or crawling into yet another storm drain at four in the morning.

You are unlikely to lay your hands on a more hectically, strenuously entertaining book for some time. Our hero eats and swashbuckles round the globe with perfect-pitch attitude and liberal use of judiciously placed profanities. Bourdain can write. His timing is great. He is very funny and is under no illusions whatsoever about himself or anyone else. But most of all, he is a chef who got himself out of his kitchen and found, all over the world, people who understand that eating well is the foundation of harmonious living. --Robin Davidson, *Amazon.co.uk*

From Publishers Weekly

In this paperback reprint, swashbuckling chef Anthony Bourdain, author of the bestselling *Kitchen Confidential* (which famously warned restaurant-goers against ordering fish on Mondays), travels where few foodies have thought to travel before in search of the perfect meal: the Sputnik-era kitchen of a "less-than-diminutive" St. Petersburg matron, the provincial farmhouse of a Portuguese pig-slaughterer and the middle of the Moroccan desert, where he dines on "crispy, veiny" lamb testicles. Searching for the "perfect meal," Bourdain writes with humor and intelligence, describing meals of boudin noir and Vietnamese hot vin lon ("essentially a soft-boiled duck embryo") and 'fessing up to a few nights of over-indulgence ("I felt like I'd awakened under a collapsed building," he writes of a night in San Sebastian hopping from tapas bar to tapas bar). Goat's head soup, lemongrass tripe, and pork-blood cake all make appearances, as does less exotic fare, such as French fries and Mars bars (deep fried, but still). In between meals, Bourdain lets his readers in on the surprises and fears of a well-fed American voyaging to far-off, frugal places, where every part of an animal that can be eaten must be eaten, and the need to preserve food has fueled culinary innovation for centuries. He also reminds his audience of the connections between food and land and human toil, which, in these sterilized days of pre-wrapped sausages, is all too easy to forget.

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Review

Food Writer of the Year (Bon Appétit)

"[Bourdain] is a one-man army traveling the world on his stomach--and his droll wit." (People)

“None of your limp-wristed, pinch-mouthed, hoity-toity delicacies for this guy.” (Elle)

“Bourdain’s mission is to show the cool, un-Martha side of the culinary world.” (Time magazine)

“Mighty engaging.... [Bourdain’s] snappy, full-bore writing style--whether being sarcastic, passionate, or descriptive--is good entertainment.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Adventurous and opinionated, [Bourdain] is very good company.” (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)

“Brilliant. A chain-smoking, hard-drinking, cut-to-the-chase guy’s guy, ready to try anything new and different.” (Minneapolis Star Tribune)

“Some fine food adventure reading.... Bourdain offers excellent insight into real food.” (San Francisco Chronicle)

“If you’re looking for a camel ride and an amiable companion, you could do a lot worse.” (Washington Post)

“Vintage Bourdain.” (Dallas Morning News)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jason Carr:

The book untitled A Cook's Tour: Global Adventures in Extreme Cuisines contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains your girlfriend idea with easy method. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was published by famous author. The author will bring you in the new age of literary works. You can easily read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site as well as order it. Have a nice learn.

Irma Patterson:

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Charles Simpson:

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