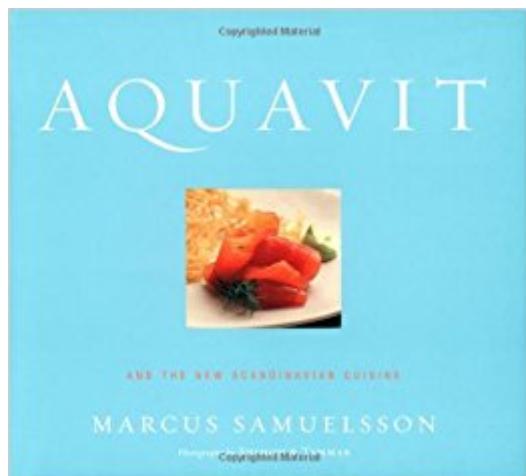


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Aquavit: And The New Scandinavian Cuisine



Synopsis

In this long-awaited book, Marcus Samuelsson introduces the simple techniques and exciting combinations that have won him worldwide acclaim and placed Scandinavian cooking at the forefront of the culinary scene. Whether it's a freshly interpreted Swedish classic or a dramatically original creation, each one of the dishes has been flawlessly recreated for the home cook. Every recipe has a masterful touch that makes it strikingly new: the contrasting temperatures of Warm Beef Carpaccio in Mushroom Tea, the pleasing mix of creamy and crunchy textures in Radicchio, Bibb, and Blue Cheese Salad, the cornflake coating on a delightful rendition of Marcus's favorite "junk food," Crispy Potatoes. In "The Raw and the Cured," Marcus presents the cornerstone dishes of the Scandinavian repertoire, from a traditional Gravlax with Mustard Sauce (which gets just the right balance from a little coffee) to the internationally inspired Pickled Herring Sushi-Style. The clean, precise flavors of this food are reminiscent of Japanese cuisine but draw upon accessible Western ingredients. Marcus shows how to prepare foolproof dinners for festive occasions: Crispy Duck with Glogg Sauce, Herb-Roasted Rack of Lamb, and Prune-Stuffed Pork Roast. Step by step, offering many suggestions for substitutions and shortcuts, he guides you through the signature dishes that have made Aquavit famous, like Dill-Crusted Arctic Char with Pinot Noir Sauce, Pan-Roasted Venison Chops with Fruit and Berry Chutney, and Fois Gras "Ganache." But you'll also find dozens of homey, comforting dishes that Marcus learned from his grandmother, like Swedish Roast Chicken with Spiced Apple Rice, Chilled Potato-Chive Soup, Blueberry Bread, Corn Mashed Potatoes, ethereal Swedish Meatballs with Quick Pickled Cucumbers, and Swedish Pancakes with Lingonberry Whipped Cream. From simplest-ever snacks like Sweet and Salty Pine Nuts and Barbecued Boneless Ribs, to satisfying sandwiches like Gravlax Club, to vibrant jams and salsas and homemade flavored aquavits, Marcus Samuelsson's best recipes are here. Lavishly photographed, *Aquavit and the New Scandinavian Cuisine* provides all the inspiration and know-how needed for stunning success in the kitchen.

Book Information

Hardcover: 312 pages

Publisher: Rux Martin/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (October 2, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618109412

ISBN-13: 978-0618109418

Product Dimensions: 10.4 x 11.3 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #344,053 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Regional & International > European > Scandinavian

Customer Reviews

What kind of food would a French-trained Manhattan chef, born in Ethiopia and raised in Sweden, produce? The unique food of Aquavit, the Scandinavian restaurant whose refined, contemporary cooking Marcus Samuelsson presents in his eponymous debut cookbook. Samulessong's cuisine reflects the Swedish love of seafood, game, and pickled and preserved dishes, enlivened by Indian spices (brought to Sweden in the 17th century), plus other approaches. Thus Aquavit offers reborn Scandinavian favorites like Gravlax with Mustard Sauce and Swedish Roast Chicken with Spiced Apple Rice plus delights like Tandoori-Smoked Salmon with Goat Cheese Parfait, Hot-Smoked Char with Lemon Broth, and Glazed Salmon with Wasabi Sabayon. Though the book includes among its 150-plus recipes fare that's definitely friendly to the home cook--like Barbecued Boneless "Ribs" (made with boneless pork shoulder) and Slow Roasted Turkey Wings--this is fundamentally a chef's collection, and will probably be pored through more readily than cooked from. Nonetheless, for readers interested in the food of singular talent, presented in an oversized format as lovely as the cooking itself, the Aquavit is essential. Chapters cover the basic menu stops, including soups, salads and sides, plus the likes of Steamed Crab Rolls from "Bites, Snacks and Little Plates

When he became executive chef at New York City's swank Aquavit at the tender age of 24, Samuelsson began educating Americans about his native Swedish cuisine, but he also received an education in return. And it's that exchange that elevates this book beyond traditional Swedish cooking to an expression of one chef's unique viewpoint. There are certainly traditional Swedish dishes represented, such as Gravlax with Mustard Sauce, Swedish Meatballs, and Prune-Stuffed Pork Roast, but they stand side-by-side with successful experiments like Pickled Herring Sushi-Style, with slices of herring served on tiny mashed potato logs that resemble rice, and Warm Beef Carpaccio in Mushroom Tea, inspired by a trip to Japan. Every cross-cultural gambit, from a Tuna Burger with Cabbage Tzatziki to a Gravlax Club Sandwich with guacamole, sounds fabulous (with photos by Shimon & Tammar, which are as beautifully clear and crisp as the recipes). Samuelsson unabashedly confesses to a fascination with "junk food culture" that dates back to a time before he knew what the words meant and results in wonderful finger foods such as Crispy

Potatoes dredged in corn flakes and panko bread crumbs and fried twice. Desserts exhibit the same combination of adherence to tradition and thoughtful experimentation and range from Swedish Pancakes with Lingonberry Whipped Cream to Black Pepper Cheesecake with blanched peppercorns. Samuelsson is one of our great chefs, and a warm-hearted and generous writer to boot. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

1. This is a book for serious foodies that cook. You need some knowledge of technique and you must enjoy the process of cooking. Otherwise, the recipes are going to me too time-consuming. 2. The recipes are inspired by Swedish cuisine rather than being identifiably Swedish. We get a lot of ingredients often used in Sweden, e.g. salmon, dill. Some recipes are really Swedish, e.g. gravad lax, meatballs, but most are not. There are loads of recipes with ingredients not at all seen in Sweden, e.g. kimchi, pine nuts, tuna. So if you want a better understanding of Swedish (or Scandinavian) cuisine this book is not at all going to deliver. 3. The food however, is very tasty. I would say that 50% of the dishes are solidly Northern European (cooking method, ingredients) and the rest is some kind of fusion dishes (typically with one or two ingredients from outside this region). 4. Another reviewer said that the chef was from Ethiopia. While genetically correct, he has lived in an upper-middle class Swedish family since he was three years old. So don't expect any African touch. This is a guy that seems as Swedish in his thinking as Ingrid Bergman. I can recommend this book, but it is not a must-buy so four stars will do.

The real deal that has given me the best pick up lines for Swedish stewardess'. There was a cookbook published 80 years ago, "The Way to a Man's Heart" and do not forget, women eat too! What better ice breaker with a gorgeous woman who makes adolescents and grown men cry, than to offer her the culinary treats provided in this gastronomic climax!

I found the book had some creative dishes. When I make one of these recipes I feel like a Chef for a 5 start restaurant (well if it comes out alright that is). Some of the recipes are challenging and some ingredients are hard to find, but if you are a home cook and like a challenge this is a good cook book.

Great recipes, mouthwatering pictures, beautiful layout. Makes me "homesick" for Stockholm. Wish Samuelsson would write another more focused on innovative Swedish cuisine.

A new array of recipes for me that were presented in an understandable fashion. The chef opened many new culinary possibilities, especially in the area of "curing" rather than cooking.

Nice unusual culinary combinations and unique flavorings

Beautiful cookbook, but not for anyone but the most experienced cook.

I really wanted to like this cookbook, being so pretty and with such flattering reviews here. The chef has an attractive story, and the concept of haute scandinavian fusion is fascinating in itself. But this book unfortunately commits many of the sins common in these glossies; for instance, food styling where the stylist takes liberties with the recipe, making one feel inept trying to match the picture. I'm learning things from it, but mostly in the negative. The recipes are incomplete. The food itself is immature compared to chefs of greater experience. It takes a while to understand this, but I can almost tell how mature a chef is from their food. Samuelsson's food today reminds me of the young Vongerichten's "Simple Cuisine" compared to the food he makes today. The balances are overblown, with a childish affinity for sweetness. There's all sorts of refinements left to understand. I imagine Samuelsson will mature into a great chef, but what you're getting today is like the impulsive work of art students rather than masterpieces. And today's impatient society encourages, if not forces, these budding talents to expose themselves like this, giving them a false sense of victory instead of the virtues of enduring legacy won through decades of disciplined refinement. We have a young chef here in San Francisco who gives me an idea what's going on with Samuelsson (I've never been to Aquavit or Riingo so I have to draw analogies). He's won all these "young chef of the year" awards for his restaurant "Isa". But Isa isn't even the second best restaurant on his little block of the Marina. What's happening is the chef is an attractive person, the spin is crafty, and food writers, we must remind ourselves, are writers first and food experts second. So hype and show and raw freneticism count for a lot in this glamour-focused business. If you want a picture book that looks intriguing on your coffee table but you never actually cook out of it, this is a good choice. There are much better, if uglier, works available for actually preparing memorable meals.

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