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Brazilian Food: Race, Class And Identity In Regional Cuisines



Synopsis

Brazil is a nation of vast expanses and enormous variation from geography and climate to cultures and languages. Within these boundaries are definable regions in which certain customs, history, and shared views help define an identity and cohesion. In many cases, the pattern of settlement and immigration has influenced the culinary culture of Brazil. This book explores the role that food and cuisine play in the construction of identity on both the regional and national levels in Brazil through key case examples. It explores the way in which food has become an important element in attracting tourists to a region as well as a way of making aspects of a culture known beyond its borders as cookbooks, ingredients and restaurants move outward in our globalized world.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury Academic (November 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0857850423

ISBN-13: 978-0857850423

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.4 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #1,221,793 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #215 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Regional & International > Latin American](#) #2098 in [Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Food Science](#) #2527 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Human Geography](#)

Customer Reviews

Unless you are Brazilian or have lived in that country, do you really know what Brazilian food is? How has it been influenced by regional and foreign lands? Is there anything really authentic? Well this book might help. Certainly it helped open this reviewer's eyes to just how big and culinary different Brazil really is. There is no one single climate, there are many regional differences, cultural identities play a major role in shaping the culinary map. This is an academically-written book that is fairly accessible for the curious gastronome, but do not make the mistake of thinking you will be getting recipes as well as a lot of great information. But saying that, there ARE a few recipes, but that is not the book's focus...This book is relatively slim and yet it manages to pack a lot of interesting information within. To be fair, if you are not specifically curious about Brazilian culture or

perhaps a wider Latin American context, this book is probably not for you. It doesn't make the cut as a "good, general interest"-type of book but that does not make it a bad book. Just a different book. It does deliver well what it sets out to do, but it is probably a book you would seek out rather than stumble across, if you can understand the semantic differences. Unlike many academically-focussed books, there are no footnotes and specifically directed citations. The series of notes and bibliography at the end of the book does meet a need, but it is perhaps less academically-suited and focussed as it could be. That is a shame as it would not have affected the general 'accessibility' of the book for the non-academic reader. It just seems to be suffering a bit of an identity crisis.

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