

MAGYAR MENU

By Iván Bächer



NOT SO MUCH A COOKBOOK – MORE A MAGYAR WAY OF LIFE

A small nation with big appetites, the Hungarians love to eat, cook and above all: talk about their rich pepper-and-cream laden grub. No-one loves talking and writing about Hungarian food, its history and qualities more than leading local columnist Iván Bächer whose always witty and sometimes screamingly funny pieces include the exploding pig-shave story and how Budapest's crows were terrorised by a *pálpusztá* cheese.

Amidst the fun are real insights on how to prepare, eat and enjoy food in a magnificent Magyar manner.

Magyar Menu is a book about food; plain, rich, every day and strictly once-a year; it's about eating - what Uncle Gyula did with his boiled onion or how Iván's wife sneaks a cabbage into (and out of) every soup she makes – and it's about hoping the apples you picked this autumn won't blacken before Christmas and it's about a pig that exploded at a village feast; no-one was killed though, not even the pig, because it was dead already. It's leading Hungarian columnist Ivan Bächer's riotous but wise vision of the Magyar 'Way of Food', DON'T hold the sour cream DO shovel in that paprika...

**Iván Bächer's Hungarian World of Nosh
Pork trotters á la boulangère/ Puliszka, or polenta
Layered cauliflower/Stuffed kohlrabi
Evie's proper dolmas ('dolmades')/Winter apples
Magyar menu/Pálpusztá cheese/Scanned strapačka
Feeding the summer child/Á la Dubarry/Frankfurter soup
Simple (poppyseed) guba/Tomatoes/ Slovak hot dog
Indonesian chicken/ My potato soup/Mystery fish spread
Stewed sorrel/ Semolina pudding/ Brassó-style grill
Female caprice (a dessert)/Al dente/ Oxtail soup
Mushrooming in winter/Home-made electrocution
Layered cabbage**

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