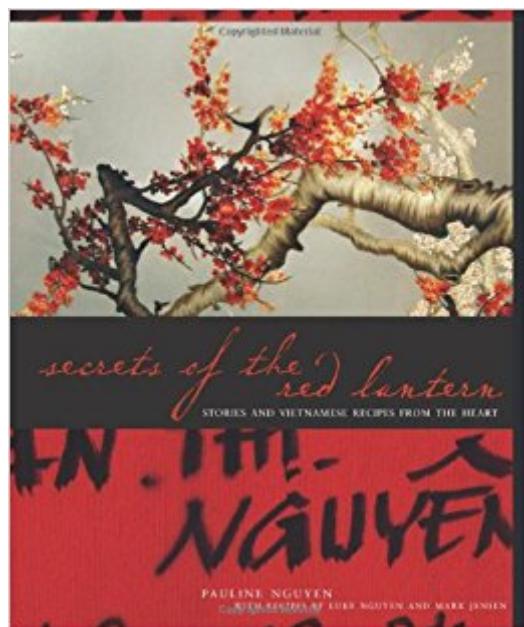


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Secrets Of The Red Lantern: Stories And Vietnamese Recipes From The Heart



Synopsis

In my family, food is our language. Food enables us to communicate the things we find so hard to say." -Pauline Nguyen Overflowing with sumptuous but simply prepared dishes that have been passed down through generations of the Nguyen family, Secrets of the Red Lantern is part Vietnamese cookbook and part family memoir. More than 275 traditional Vietnamese recipes are presented alongside a visual narrative of food and family photographs that follows the family's escape from war-torn Vietnam to the successful founding of the Red Lantern restaurant. At the heart of each recipe is the power of food to elevate and transform. From a recipe of cari de that sparks a memory to the distinctly bitter melon soup that says, "I'm sorry," Secrets of the Red Lantern shares the rich culinary heritage of the Nguyen family and their personal story of reconciliation and success. Recipes like Bun Rieu (Crab and Tomato Soup with Vermicelli Noodles), Goi Du Du (Green Papaya Salad with Prawns and Pork), and Che Khoai Mon (Black Sticky Rice with Taro), unlock the family's secrets and see the family persevere through homesickness, heartache, and the upheavals of change to finally experience growth and celebration. The result is a beautiful journey through Vietnamese history, culture, and tradition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. In this moving culinary account of her family's immigration from their native Vietnam, restaurateur Nguyen of Sydney, Australia begins: "In my family, food is our language...when we cannot speak the words "I am sorry"-we give this bittersweet soup instead."

Luckily, Nguyen is also skilled in written language; her moving, honest and painful story follows her family's dramatic exodus from their war-ravaged homeland to the safety of Australia. There, Nguyen's parents opened the restaurant that would give Pauline and her brother Luke the foundation for their current enterprise, The Red Lantern, one of Sydney's most popular dining destinations. Worth the price alone is Nguyen's masterful storytelling, including a warts-and-all look at her family and the immigrant experience. The book's arc is entirely film-ready; indeed, color images of people, places and dishes are striking. And then there's the recipes: more than 275 traditional Vietnamese dishes, all relatively simple to prepare (though some might require some tenacious shopping). Nguyen's wide net catches classic comfort food like Pho Bo Tai Nam, the traditional beef noodle soup, and slow-cooked pork shoulder; fish dishes like Crispy-Skin Snapper with Ginger and Lime Fish Sauce; easy appetizers like Tom Nuong (Soy and Honey Grilled Shrimp); and exotic fare like Durian Ice Cream. Whether you buy it for the story, recipes or both, this is an essential volume for those interested in Vietnamese cooking and culture. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Secrets of the Red Lantern by Pauline Nguyen has been chosen by NPR food writer Susie Chang as one of the Best Cookbooks of 2008 --NPR.org Whether you want amazingly accessible Vietnamese recipes or just a good, honest family story with food, this Sydney restaurateur delivers. --Epicurious.com Pho-nomenal...astonishing. Pauline Nguyen has combined a book full of classic, meticulous Vietnamese recipes with a powerful personal memoir. --National Public Radio 275 traditional recipes...are almost a sidebar to the compelling story of escape, refugee camps and reconciliation. --Atlanta Journal Constitution A beautiful, poignant book. Through memoir and with stunning recipes, Nguyen details her path from Vietnam to...her restaurant in Australia. --Minneapolis Star Tribune Pauline Nguyen translates the pure, clean, exotic flavors of her native food into simple recipes for the Western kitchen. --Hartford Courant A beautiful journey through Vietnamese history, culture, and tradition that cooks everywhere will embrace. --Globalgourmet.com

This cookbook is the only one I have read from front to back in a couple of sittings. The story was spellbinding and enchanting. The whole book - the cover, photos, layout, fonts - echoes her journey from escaping Vietnam to resettling successfully in Australia. I have given this book as gifts to those that like Asian cookbooks and a beautifully produced and written story. Thank you to the author!

Good recipes and stories.

I love the way the book is design, it's so aesthetically pleasing not only to the eyes but to the palate. I enjoyed the sharing of family stories and experiences, along with the recipes. So much is connected with the going on of the kitchen, the heart of home and restaurant.

Just like the way mom makes them!

I have to admit I did buy this book just so I could have a good Pho recipe but I have taken a fancy to so many other recipes in this beautiful book, the story was wonderful to read as well and it makes cooking the recipes even more special.

Loved this book! Recipes are easy to follow and are authentic. The story is interesting and reminiscent of how migrants struggle through hardship and cultural conflicts in their adopted countries! Well worth reading.

Well written and interesting. We are big fans of Luke Nguyen and now his sister. We plan to go page by page and try our luck.

beautiful cookbook.

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