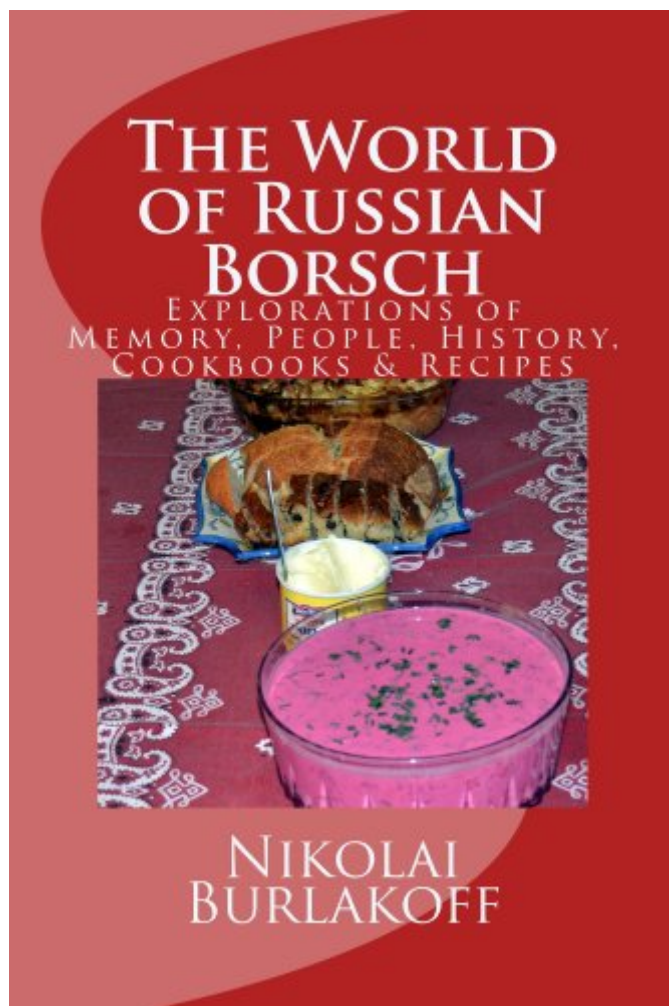




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The World Of Russian Borsch



Synopsis

Borsch, also known as borscht, is perhaps the best known Eastern European food dish worldwide. Few, however, know that the earliest recorded references to it are found in 10th century Polish documents. Fewer know that originally borsch was not cooked with beets, a plant that entered widespread use in Eastern Europe only around the 15th century. And only a tiny minority of people are aware that the first experiment in transmitting the human voice from orbital flight involved the broadcasting of a borsch recipe. The reader is invited to share the author's borsch odyssey from a hogweed plant-based soup to its presence in outer space. The World of Russian Borsch is the first book-length study to look into the historical background of this dish, attempt to outline its evolution and dissemination throughout the world, and look at it in terms of cultures that created it. The book, designed for non-academic audiences and culinary non-specialists, engages readers in the travels of borsch through stories of the author's personal experiences, cookbook reviews, cooking advice and extensive historic and cultural research succinctly presented. It includes more than 80 recipes, which range from those in the earliest cookbooks to others collected recently from notable local cooks. The World of Russian Borsch, is as much about a wide range of people and their cultures as it is about a phenomenally successful food dish.

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Customer Reviews

Excellent writer. Even tho I'm discovering more about borsch than I ever wanted to know, I find the story keeps my attention to read more.

Wonderful recipes along with such interesting information.

Even if you don't eat beets and don't give a flip for borsch, this thoughtful and passionate work will reward your attention. Burlakoff deftly balances his personal story with sound scholarship. It's a lively and engaging narrative, opening out innumerable avenues of thought concerning food, identity, spirituality, history, media - and love. It's all that. But should you only be in search of a compendium of recipes, you will be delighted with the variety of those included, as well as the clarity of their instruction and the little details of preparation that make a dish right. The World of Russian Borsch is not only one of my favorite ethnic cookbooks - a genre I love. It is now among my favorite books about food, period.

An absolutely fascinating book. As a borsch lover I expected a book of recipes with perhaps a bit of background on how different cultures prepared the soup. Instead, recipes yes - many great ones, but in addition a history of cookbooks dealing with borsch from a cultural, historical and religious aspect; how religion and migration influenced the dish. The book is loaded with fascinating tidbits on the soup - Campbell's Soup failed in Russia because Russians consider canned soup is to be used only for camping, not for serving to guests, but the company is successful in selling borsch to the Chinese Community. Chinese borsch! Who knew? There is too much great stuff in the book to cover in a review. If you're a lover of borsch, or history, or culture, or just a great read, I highly recommend this book.

This book has something for everyone...more than you ever imagined there is to know about borsch! If you simply want recipes, you'll find them here: red, green, and white borsch (spelled differently, depending on where it comes from), borsch for a legion or just a family, hot borsch and cold. If you're interested in the multicultural history of food, you've come to the right place. If you're

interested in a library of cookbooks, here it is. And if the life and times of an author interest you, read this book. It follows a boy who doesn't like beets through the years to a mature and thoughtful man who loves to share what he knows (and cooks). A multifaceted book!

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