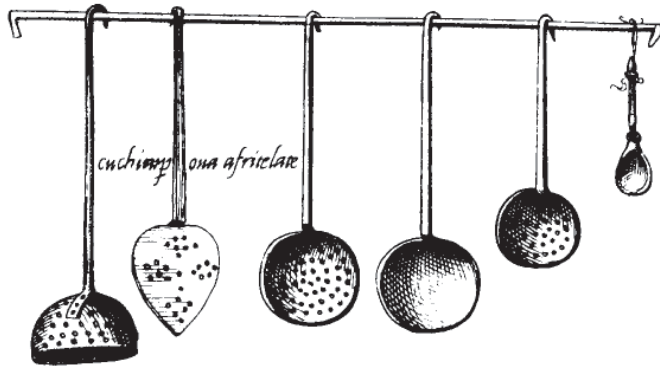




QUOTES
from the
KITCHEN





Herein, please enjoy this small collection of authors and personae weighing in on matters culinary, libationary and beyond. The sentiment spans a wide range, from the heartfelt to the humorous to the absurd. But these quotations share a common thread in celebrating the rituals and customs in which we nourish the body and sustain the spirit. With the same sense of celebration, I share them with you.

Debts acknowledged to the quotation books from which I plundered and otherwise ‘researched.’

So enough of this highfalutin preamble. A junior epicure whom I know says it best when the supper blessing runs long, “less talkin’ and more eatin’.” Merry Christmas!

~ THE EDITOR

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The most remarkable thing about my mother is that for thirty years she served the family nothing but leftovers. The original meal has never been found.

CALVIN TRILLIN

Roumanian-Yiddish cooking has killed more Jews than Hitler.

ZERO MOSTEL

My doctor told me to stop having intimate dinners for four. Unless there are three other people.

ORSON WELLES

A nickel will get you on the subway, but garlic will get you a seat.

OLD NEW YORK YIDDISH SAYING

Only the pure of heart can make a good soup.

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

I will not eat oysters. I want my food
dead—not sick, not wounded—dead.

WOODY ALLEN

And please don't cook me, kind sirs! I am
a good cook myself, and cook better than
I cook, if you see what I mean. I'll cook
beautifully for you, a perfectly beautiful
breakfast for you, if only you won't have
me for supper.

BILBO BAGGINS, (J.R.R. TOLKEN)

At this point in the meal, the stomach
was ready for serious eating, and I
prepared beans with bacon grease, a dish
I perfected in 1937 while developing my
cuisine du depression. The dish is started
by placing a pan over a very high flame
until it becomes dangerously hot. A can of
Heinz's pork and beans is then emptied
into the pan and allowed to char until
it reaches the consistency of hardened
concrete. Three strips of bacon are fried
to crisps, and when the beans have formed
huge dense clots firmly welded to the pan,
the bacon grease is poured in and stirred

vigorously with a large screwdriver.... The
correct drink with this dish is a straight
shot of room-temperature gin. I had a
Gilbey's 1975, which was superb.

RUSSELL BAKER

Leave the gun. Take the cannolis.

CLEMENZA, IN THE MOVIE THE GODFATHER

I don't think a really good pie can be made
without a dozen or so children peeking
over your shoulder as you stoop to look in
at it every little while.

JOHN GOULD

What I love about cooking is that after a
hard day, there is something comforting
about the fact that if you melt butter and
add flour and then hot stock, it will get
thick! It's a sure thing! It's a sure thing
in a world where nothing is sure; it has
a mathematical certainty in a world
where those of us who long for some
kind of certainty are forced to settle for
crossword puzzles.

NORA EPHRON

No mean woman can cook well, for it calls for a light head, a generous spirit, and a large heart.

PAUL GAUGUIN

Ice-cream is exquisite. What a pity it isn't illegal.

VOLTAIRE

Man is the only animal that can remain on friendly terms with the victims he intends to eat until he eats them.

SAMUEL BUTLER

You better cut the pizza in four pieces because I'm not hungry enough to eat six.

YOGI BERRA

Sex is good, but not as good as fresh, sweet corn.

GARRISON KEILLOR

Edible, adj.: Good to eat, and wholesome to digest, as a worm to a toad, a toad to a

snake, a snake to a pig, a pig to a man, and a man to a worm.

AMBROSE BIERCE

Part of the success in life is to eat what you like and let the food fight it out inside.

MARK TWAIN

There is one thing more exasperating than a wife who can cook and won't and that's a wife who can't cook and will.

ROBERT FROST

A host is like a general: it takes a mishap to reveal his genius.

HORACE

The trouble with eating Italian food is that five or six days later you're hungry again.

GEORGE MILLER

Everything you see I owe to spaghetti.

SOPHIA LOREN

My favorite animal is steak.

FRAN LEBOWITZ

Mustard's no good without roast beef.

CHICO MARX

Coffee should be black as Hell, strong as death, and sweet as love.

TURKISH PROVERB

In my experience, clever food is not appreciated at Christmas. It makes the little ones cry and the old ones nervous.

JANE GRIGSON

We owe much to the fruitful meditation of our sages, but a sane view of life is, after all, elaborated mainly in the kitchen.

JOSEPH CONRAD

There is no sight on earth more appealing than the sight of a woman making dinner for someone she loves.

THOMAS WOLFE

We had the first of a very relaxed and informal series of meals with our family. Earlier, when Rosalynn was visiting the White House, some of our staff asked the chef and cooks if they thought that they could prepare the kind of meals which we enjoyed in the South, and the cook said, "Yes, Ma'am, we've been fixing that kind of food for the servants for a long time!"

PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

She died with a knife in her hand in her kitchen, where she had cooked for fifty years, and her death was solemnly listed in the newspaper as that of an artist.

JANET FANNER (GENET)

On The Death Of Mother Soret Of Lyons

Jewish cuisine differs from that of my fathers in both philosophy and content, but in its preoccupation with food as a gesture of love, the two have much in common. If the price we pay for that gesture be a little pain in the night, a little agony on the bathroom scales, a prowling down dark corridors groping for the

Bisodol—well, who said love was all roses without a thorn?

RUSSELL BAKER

The smell and taste of things remain poised for a long time, like souls, ready to remind us, waiting and hoping for their moment, amid the ruins of all the rest; and bear unfaltering, in the almost palpable drop of their essence, the vast structure of recollection.

MARCEL PROUST

My father cut down a magnificent plum tree which every year had given us a bountiful harvest of sweet juicy blue or red plums, I have forgotten which, and every second year or third year, I have forgotten which again, a bumper crop, in order to make room for a backyard garage. The car it contained was only a Maxwell. A whole fleet of Rolls Royces would not have compensated for the home made fresh plum ice cream which disappeared with our tree.

WAVERLY ROOT

Garlic is as good as ten mothers.

TELUGU PROVERB

She (my mother) could make jello, for instance, with sliced peaches hanging in it, peaches just suspended there, in defiance of the law of gravity. She could bake a cake that tasted like banana. Weeping, suffering, she grated her own horseradish, rather than buy the pishachs they sold in a bottle at the delicatessen. She watched the butcher, as she put it, 'like a hawk,' to be certain that he did not forget to put her chopped meat through the kosher grinder.

PHILIP ROTH

An empty stomach is not a good political advisor.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Custard: A detestable substance produced by a malevolent conspiracy of the hen, the cow, and the cook.

AMBROSE BIERCE

Madam, I have been looking for a person who disliked gravy all my life: let us swear eternal friendship.

SYDNEY SMITH

Connoisseur: A specialist who knows everything about something and nothing about anything.... An old wine bibber having been smashed in a railway collision, some wine was poured on his lips to revive him. "Pauillac, 1873," he murmured and died.

AMBROSE BIERCE

The best sauce in the world is hunger.

CERVANTES

The dangerous person in the kitchen is the one who goes rigidly by weights, measurements, thermometers and scales. I would say once more that all these scientific implements are not of much use, the only exception being for making pastry and jams, where exact weights are important.

X. MARCEL BOULESTIN

Six white pigeons to be smothered, to be plucked to be cleaned and all this to be accomplished before Gertrude Stein returned for she didn't like to see work being done.

ALICE B. TOKLAS

When we first began reading Dashiell Hammett, Gertrude Stein remarked that it was his modern note to have disposed of his victims before the story commenced. And so it is in the kitchen. Murder and sudden death seem as natural there as they should be anywhere else.... Food is far too pleasant to combine with horror. All the same, facts, even distasteful facts, must be accepted, and we shall see how, before any story of cooking begins, crime is inevitable.

ALICE B. TOKLAS

I like a cook who smiles out loud when he tastes his own work. Let God worry about your modesty; I want to see your enthusiasm.

JAMES ALAN MCPHERSON

I used to think...that the English cook the way they do because, through sheer technical deficiency, they had not been able to master the art of cooking. I have discovered to my stupefaction that the English cook that way because that is the way they like it.

WAVERLEY ROOT

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fatted ox and hatred with it.

THE BIBLE, PROVERBS 15:17

Today, millions of Americans who sit munching popcorn before flickering movie screens, television sets, and fire places are following an ancient tradition. Throughout much of the hemisphere generations of Indians popped corn in earthen vessels and ate it around open fires. One-thousand-year-old specimens of the grain from ancient, musty Peruvian tombs still popped when heated!

NICHOLAS P. HARDEMAN

Everyman should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

THE BIBLE, ECCLESIASTES 3:13

Nothing helps scenery like ham and eggs.

MARK TWAIN

I met a keen observer who gave me a tip: "If you run across a restaurant where you often see priests eating with priests, or sporting girls with sporting girls, you may be confident that it is good. Those are two classes of people who like to eat well and get their money's worth.

A.J. LIEBLING

The other customers (in the restaurant) were all French, people from the neighboring villages dressed in their clean, somber Sunday clothes, and one or two more sophisticated couples looking fashionably out of place in their boutique colors. At a big table in the corner, three

generations of a family piled their plates high and wished each other bon appetit. One of the children, showing remarkable promise for a six-year-old gourmet, said that he preferred this paté to the one he ate at home, and asked his grandmother for a taste of her wine. The family dog watched patiently by his side, knowing as all dogs do that children drop more food than adults.

PETER MAYLE

According to the Spanish proverb, four persons are wanted to make a good salad: a spendthrift for oil, a miser for vinegar, a counsellor for salt, and a madman to stir it all up.

ABRAHAM HAYWARD

Salt is the only rock directly consumed by man. It corrodes but preserves, desiccates but is wrested from the water. It has fascinated man for thousands of years not only as a substance he prized and was willing to labour to obtain, but also as a generator of poetic and of mythic

meaning. The contradictions it embodies only intensify its power and its links with experience of the sacred.

MARGARET VISSER

Salt is white and pure—there is something holy in salt.

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

Love and scandal are the best sweeteners of tea.

HENRY FIELDING

Of soup and love, the first is best.

SPANISH PROVERB

Lord God, You know us old cowhands is forgetful. Sometimes I can't even recollect what happened yestiddy. We is forgetful. We just know daylight and dark, summer, fall, winter, and spring. But I sure hope we don't ever forget to thank You before we is about to eat a mess of good chili. We don't know why, in Your wisdom. You been so doggone good to us. The heathen Chinee don't have no chili, ever. The

Frenchmens is left out. The Rooshians don't know no more about chili than a hog does about a sidesaddle. Even the Meskins don't get a good whiff of it unless they stay around here.

Chili eaters is some of Your chosen people. We don't know why You so doggone good to us. But Lord, God, don't ever think we ain't grateful for this chili we about to eat. Amen.

BONES HOOKS

I would stand transfixed before the windows of the confectioners' shops, fascinated by the luminous sparkle of candied fruits, the cloudy lustre of jellies, the kaleidoscope inflorescence of acidulated fruitdrops—red, green, orange, violet: I coveted the colours themselves as much as the pleasure they promised me. Mama used to grind sugared almonds for me in a mortar and mix the crunched powder with a yellow cream; the pink of

the sweets used to shade off into exquisite nuances of colour, and I would dip an eager spoon into their brilliant sunset.

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR

Frankly, in our experience, when our pals sit down at the dining-room table set with matching china and matching silverware on a white tablecloth, they come under the shadow of a penal dining code learned in childhood. In the kitchen or out on the porch, they can be about fifty-percent funnier than at the table, where they sit up straighter and their conversation takes a turn toward higher ground—into the realm of issues and problems, needs and priorities.

GARRISON KEILLOR

In carving a partridge I splashed her with gravy from head to foot; and though I saw three distinct brown rills of animal juice trickling down her cheek, she had the complacency to swear that not a drop had

reached her. Such circumstances are the triumphs of civilized life.

SYDNEY SMITH

A man who is stingy with saffron is capable of seducing his own grandmother.

NORMAN DOUGLAS

What I say is that, if a fellow really likes potatoes, he must be a pretty decent sort of fellow.

A. A. MILNE

Vegetarianism is harmless enough, though it is apt to fill a man with wind and self-righteousness.

SIR ROBERT HUTCHINSON

Anyone who eats three meals a day should understand why cookbooks outsell sex books three to one.

L. M. BOYD

Researchers have discovered that chocolate produces some of the same reactions in the brain as marijuana.

The researchers also discovered other similarities between the two but can't remember what they are.

MATT LAUER

At a dinner party one should eat wisely but not too well, and talk well but not too wisely.

W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM

I don't think America will have really made it until we have our own salad dressing. Until then we're stuck behind the French, Italians, Russians and Caesarians.

PAT MCNELIS

Fish, to taste right, must swim three times—in water, in butter, and in wine.

POLISH PROVERB

[Bread baking is] one of those almost hypnotic businesses, like a dance from some ancient ceremony. It leaves you filled with one of the world's sweetest smells... there is no chiropractic treatment, no

Yoga exercise, no hour of meditation in a music-throbbing chapel, that will leave you emptier of bad thoughts than this homely ceremony of making bread.

M.F.K. FISHER

Mayonnaise: One of the sauces which serve the French in place of a state religion.

AMBROSE BIERCE

Black pepper heate and comfort the brain.

JOHN GERARD

You first parents of the human race...who ruined yourself for an apple, what might you not have done for a truffled turkey?

RUPERT HART-DAVIS

Sir, respect your dinner; idolize it, enjoy it properly. You will be many hours in the week, many weeks in the year, and many years in your life happier if you do.

WILLIAM M. THACKERAY

Eggs of an hour, bread of a day, wine of a year, a friend of thirty years.

ITALIAN PROVERB

Bad cooks—and the utter lack of reason in the kitchen—have delayed human development longest and impaired it most.

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE



On Tippling of the Spirits



Asked to state his position on whiskey, the Congressman replied: "If you mean the demon drink that poisons the mind, pollutes the body, desecrates family life and inflames sinners, then I'm against it. But if you mean the elixir of Christmas cheer, the shield against winter chill, the taxable potion that puts needed funds into public coffers to comfort little crippled children, then I'm for it. This is my position, and I will not compromise."

ANONYMOUS

As I was the host at luncheon I ... said to the interpreter that if it was the religion of His Majesty (Ibn Saud) to deprive himself of smoking and alcohol I must point out that my rule of life prescribed as an absolutely sacred rite smoking cigars and

also the drinking of alcohol before, after, and if need be during all meals and in the intervals between them.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

What contemptible scoundrel stole the cork from my lunch?

W. C. FIELDS

Burgundy makes you think of silly things; Bordeaux makes you talk about them, and Champagne makes you do them.

BRILLAT-SAVARIN

I was enjoying myself now. I had taken two finger-bowls of Champagne, and the scene had changed before my eyes into something significant, elemental, and profound.

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

I have very poor and unhappy brains for drinking: I could well wish courtesy would invent some other custom of entertainment.

SHAKESPEARE

I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence,
or insanity to anyone, but they've always
worked for me.

HUNTER S. THOMPSON

When I read about the evils of drinking, I
gave up reading.

HENNY YOUNGMAN

Once, during prohibition, I was forced
to live for days on nothing but food and
water.

W. C. FIELDS

Work is the curse of the drinking classes.

OSCAR WILDE

I'll eat when I'm hungry and drink when
I'm dry, If moonshine don't kill me, I'll live
till I die.

TRADITIONAL AMERICAN SONG

I have taken more out of alcohol than
alcohol has taken out of me.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

Drinking when we are not thirsty and
making love at all seasons, madam: that
is all there is to distinguish us from other
animals.

PIERRE DE BEAUMARCHAIS

Drink helps us to penetrate the veil; it
gives us glimpses of the Magi of creation
where they sit weaving their spells and
sowing their seeds of incantation to the
flowing mind.

DON MARQUIS

Wine has a drastic, and astringent taste.
I cannot help wincing as I drink. Ascent
of flowers, radiance and heat, are distilled
here to a fiery, yellow liquid. Just behind
my shoulder-blades some dry thing, wide-
eyed, gently closes, gradually lulls itself to
sleep. This is rapture. This is relief.

VIRGINIA WOOLF

“In vino veritas,” said the sage.... Before Noah, men having only water to drink, could not find the truth. Accordingly ... they became abominably wicked, and they were justly exterminated by the water they loved to drink. This good man, Noah, having seen that all his contemporaries had perished by this unpleasant drink, took a dislike to it; and God, to relieve his dryness, created the vine and revealed to him the art of making le vin. By the aid of this liquid he unveiled more and more truth.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Wine is sunlight, held together by water.

GALILEO

In the deep south, mint juleps are not really drunk much. In fact, they are drunk so seldom that when, say, on Derby Day somebody gives a julep party, people drink them like cocktails, forgetting that a good julep holds at least five ounces of bourbon. Men fall facedown unconscious,

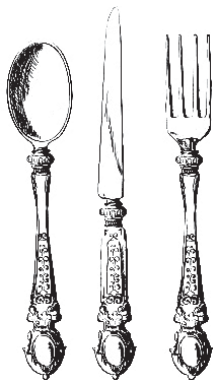
women wander in the woods disconsolate and amnesiac, full of thoughts of Kahlil Gibran and the limberlost.

WALKER PERCY

One martini is alright, two is too many, three is not enough.

JAMES THURBER





Merry Christmas



2008