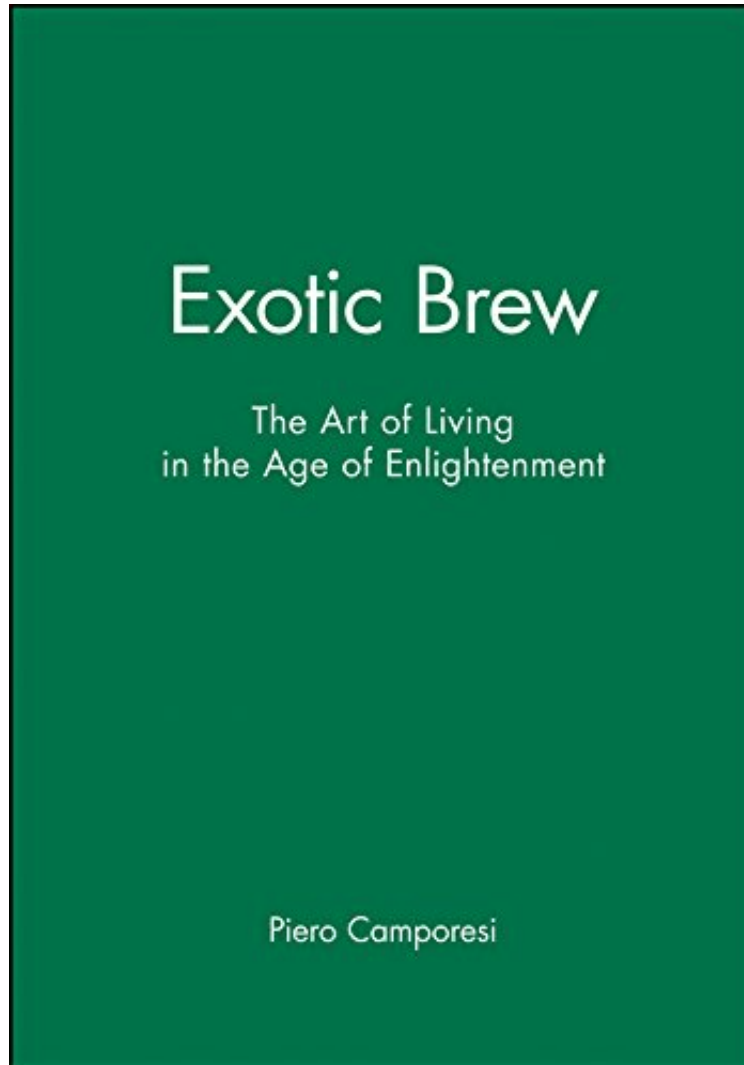


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Exotic Brew: The Art of Living in the Age of Enlightenment

Piero Camporesi

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Piero Camporesi : Exotic Brew: The Art of Living in the Age of Enlightenment before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Exotic Brew: The Art of Living in the Age of Enlightenment:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. The Enlightenment and the BodyBy Eileen G.This incredible book describes the changes of manners and cuisine - and with them, an entire socio-cultural transformation - that the Enlightenment enabled in Europe. Camporesi, a Professor of Italian Lit. at the University of Bologna, gives the reader the sights, smells, and tastes of the tables of Europe, from the lowliest of the low classes, to the pretentious dining rooms of the ruling classes. He traces food history, the introduction of "new foods," such as spices, "unthinkable

meats," and "unpredictable fruits," whether by the discoveries of trade and travel, or changes in popular attitudes. Flowers became a commodity. Food fads, foods as status symbols and tokens of refinement - are described. The birth of orangeade and lemonade, popular notions of the curative or restorative powers of one food or another, are all detailed - in an organized and satisfying fashion. Camporesi covers a fascinating and thrilling subject with clarity and erudition. The book is organized into fourteen chapters, and each can be read as a separate and complete essay. Some of their titles: "A Blissful and Drinkable Eternity," "The Botany of the Palate," "Mad and Startling Names." This book is really a must-read for any student of European social history, culinary history, or popular culture. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. one of his best By Mike McGonigal Not as jaw-droppingly fascinating as "The Incorruptible Flesh" but better than his book about blood, "Exotic Brew" is full of trenchantly rendered facts based on an insane amount of research. Camporesi's writing style satisfies the layman and scholar alike, and I love how he drops these super creative insights into the way people lived long ago so easily. It's awesome that so many of Camporesi's works have been translated in the last few years. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. decadent By N. A. Hardleyfaeyaia very decadent look at the lifestyle of EM Italians. I enjoyed the authors style. He really draws you in with his description.

This is a concise and elegant account of the eating and drinking habits of the upper classes in the eighteenth century.

"Vivid, energetic and mouth-watering ... a major contribution to the surge of interest in the history of food and the body." Roy Porter, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine "This book is written in a light and entertaining manner appropriate to the spirit of the age it seeks to capture." Journal of the Historical Association "Replete with quotations from the champions as well as the critics of the Enlightenment's new art of living, this book is written in a light and entertaining manner appropriate to the spirit of the age it seeks to capture." History "In this intriguing and amusing book, Camporesi guides the reader through the dining rooms of the European elite, painting an intricate picture of the cuisine and 'savoir vivre' of the period. The strongest feature of this work is its wealth of curious details which grant insight into a vivacious and seemingly frivolous society, obsessed with its quest for the exotic and the unorthodox. This highly evocative book is most entertaining and vividly brings to life the distinctive and bizarre lifestyles which were born of Europe's intellectual awakening." Chartist 'Camporesi is ... a beautiful writer who imbues much of the elegance of the Enlightenment era in his composition.' LiminaLanguage NotesText: English (translation) Original Language: ItalianFrom the Back CoverExotic Brew is a concise and elegant account of the eating and drinking habits of the upper classes in the eighteenth century, written by one of the foremost historians of food and social manners in Europe. Camporesi examines the shift from a rich, heavy diet to a much lighter one which emphasized "exotic" foods like tea, coffee and chocolate. This shift was, he argues, a sign of the profound transformations in fashion, taste and manners that took place in Italy and the rest of Europe in the Enlightenment. He describes how the upper classes were anxious to leave behind the heritage of the "dark" age, and to elaborate a nimbler, more refined life-style. With this new life-style came a lighter, more functional diet, free of the rich meats, strong spices, and pungent and unsociable aromas (cheese, onion, garlic) which characterized the old cuisine. The new cuisine that emerged was intended to be as pleasing to the eye as to the palate: it suited sensitive dispositions, the meagre appetites of noblewomen, and was perfectly in tune with the new preference for close-fitting clothes and slimness of figure. Camporesi places these changes in taste and cuisine in their socio-cultural context, including the increasing importance of French cultural models in the world of food and drink, and describes the growing interest taken in the world outside Europe, especially China and the Americas, where most of the exotic additions to the European diet originated.