

Living and Cooking Vietnamese: An American Womans Experience

Paula Tran

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Paula Tran : Living and Cooking Vietnamese: An American Womans Experience before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living and Cooking Vietnamese: An American Womans Experience:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Snapshot Into Family HistoryBy NocturnalMusingsI first read this book as an advance copy given usually to family members and friends. Dr. Paula Tran is my aunt and was an invaluable resource for my husband to integrate into our hectic family. It was written before my birth, but it's good to see things weren't much different back then! This book helps me keep my grandmother's cooking and memory alive, and I can't thank her enough for this peek into my own family history.As for the recipes, they're vey helpful and taste similar to the dishes I remember as a child. Her take on our family is informative, understandably confused, and hilarious. This, coupled with the nostalgia and emotion, bumps the rating from a three to a five.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Like peeking into the author's family recipe box...By heather3I really enjoyed this cookbook. The recipes taste very authentic and are easy enough to prepare for the home cook. Have you ever sat down with a friend in her kitchen and copied down a family recipe off of a well worn index card or watched as a relative chopped and stirred while you made a mental note of the ingredients and preparation method so you could repeat it and pass down the recipe to your family? The recipes in this cookbook are those kinds of recipes - I really feel like I got a chance to peek into (and copy) Mrs. Tran's personal recipe box. If you enjoy "community cookbook" style recipes - ones that are actually used in homes as opposed to restaurants, then you will probably also enjoy this cookbook. There are no pictures, but I do not think that is a drawback. The recipes are homey, delicious, and less daunting than those

often found in a more typical cookbook. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Married to Vietnamese Man By Kari Duong-Topp A friend borrowed this book to me and I read it while traveling to my sister-in-law's wedding. I am an American woman married to a Vietnamese-born man and found the recipes to be helpful, but secondary to the wonderful stories and descriptions of her experience of this rich culture. I couldn't believe the similarities as I lived through the wedding experience and she described it there on paper! (My wedding was very American with little of the cultural pieces. My sister in law's wedding was all Vietnamese.) This was a great find!

Paula Tran is the ideal guide to Vietnamese food and culture because she began as most of us begin: as an American raised on steak and potatoes and high-school homemaking. When she met and married Lac Tran in Texas in 1979. so if you are looking to the point you want to change your diet?

From Publishers Weekly Tran offers an intriguing selection of some 80 recipes--such as lemon beef salad and shrimp crepes--that are adapted for preparation in American kitchens but preserve their basic Vietnamese character, reflecting Chinese and French influences. Most recipes are direct and easy to follow, although some require unusual ingredients, notably nuoc mam, the salty fish paste often employed in Vietnamese dishes. Cooks also may need access to an Oriental or specialty shop for such items as clear edible rice paper for shrimp rolls. There are a few challenges as well: only brave hosts will point guests toward hot cooking broth and tell them to prepare their own beef fondue with vinegar. A number of recipes call for MSG, but this can be omitted, says Tran, "with little effect." In a brief but wryly entertaining text, Tran, an American, describes meeting her Vietnamese husband (at a karate school in Texas), their Buddhist wedding, the traditions surrounding the birth of her first son, and the challenges of gaining acceptance into her husband's family while learning the basics of their culture. Tran teaches English at the University of Texas. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.