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Oishinbo: À La Carte, Vol. 7: Izakaya - Pub Food



Synopsis

A quest for the ultimate menu! A quest for the ultimate menu! R to L (Japanese Style). "Izakaya--Pub Food" Izakaya occupy the same vital space in the Japanese culinary landscape as tapas bars in Spain or tavernas in Greece. Unpretentious, frequently boisterous, they're places to meet with friends or business partners to unwind over drinks and small dishes that range from hearty standards to refined innovations. In this volume of Oishinbo, Yamaoka and Kurita investigate classic izakaya foods such as edamame and yakitori, devise new dishes to add to the menu of an old shop, and discover how the concept of "play" is essential to the enjoyment of food. As part of the celebrations for its 100th anniversary, the publishers of the TMzai News have commissioned the creation of the "Ultimate Menu," a model meal embodying the pinnacle of Japanese cuisine. This all-important task has been entrusted to journalist Yamaoka ShirM, an inveterate cynic who possesses no initiative--but also an incredibly refined palate and an encyclopedic knowledge of food. Each volume of Oishinbo follows Yamaoka and his colleagues through another adventure on their quest for the Ultimate Menu. Now, the highlights from the hundred-plus volume series have been selected and compiled into A la Carte editions: bite-sized chunks of story arranged by subject that add up to a full-course manga meal!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Manga writer and essayist extraordinaire Tetsu Kariya graduated from prestigious Tokyo University. Kariya was employed with a major advertising agency before making his debut as a manga writer in 1974 when he teamed up with legendary manga artist Ryoichi Ikegami to create Otoko Gumi (Male

Gang). The worlds of food and manga were forever changed in 1983 when Kariya, together with artist Akira Hanasaki, created the immensely popular and critically acclaimed Oishinbo.

This one has some good points and some places where it lags a bit. There are no 'battles' that I remember, but quite a bit of mis-steps by Shiro and Yuuko. It talks a lot about what would be called "comfort foods" in America, including some small focuses on beer in one story, and eel in another. This volume deals with some members of the staff, talks about the pitfalls of introducing foreigners to Japanese cuisine, and finalizes Shiro and Yuuko's relationship, including chapters on naming children. It was not my favorite volume in the series (I think I liked the Sake volume best) but this is definitely a decent one. The series is a classic but a bit repetitive in the compiled form here, still I'll miss Shiro and Yuuko after the Viz volumes are done.

This series of books was very interesting for me. I wish that they were numbered so that I could have read them in order. Izakaya or Japanese pubs can be considered akin to the American local bar that has a small kitchen, but not as big as a Sports bar with full menus. This volume covers several different kinds of foods served at Izakayas, how they were developed and what could be done to change them up a bit. These books also have an engaging story that goes along with it, giving some meaning behind the pub crawling. This is not just a restaurant review or foodie guide. This series actually follows people's lives, how good food can alter how you think about things, and how different preparations of the same type of food can change what you think is considered good food. I would have given this series 5 stars but for not being able to tell what order to read them in. You do not need to read the entire series of books if you are only interested in a certain type. Each volume has a small intro section to introduce the characters and let you know what is going on.

Fascinating facts about food and customs in Japan. Actually like that it reads right to left.

Very good quality

Good stuff

Great story, interesting recipes, good knowledge about Japanese culture. I do recommend!

The whole series is great. Wish they would translate more stories to English.

All Oishinbo volumes are excellent! You would drool when you're reading them. It may makes you a better cooker. It has a nice story with interesting characters.

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