

#PalazzoGrassiatyours

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Why Do We Eat?

4. What do other people taste like? (This is not a text on cannibalism)

Let's imagine organizing a themed evening party

When you spend your days alone, what you miss is not just the conviviality of meals shared with friends, but also the loss of the imagination of the "tastes of others". In principle, you know your own tastes well, and also those of your family: you don't buy food that you don't like, and you season your food as you please. But when you invite friends over, you end up imagining what your guests might like or not like, or dishes that might pleasantly surprise them... Do you remember the first time you invited your partner to a dinner at your place? You were maybe a little worried about whether he or she would like it... Professional cooks are those who are able to imagine the tastes of others. But for us, too, every time we cook for someone else our taste territory expands, along with our imagination of the bodies of others, and of the relationship each person has with food and cooking, including their feelings, affections and fears. This is where the subtlety, as well as the pleasure, of preparing meals for others lies.

Let's imagine that you're arranging a themed evening party!

– Imagine the guest or guests: your friends, family, strangers, youngsters, foreigners...?

Or figures from history (a dinner with Yukio Mishima)? The hero of a novel, like “Winnie-the-Pooh” (at least we know what he likes to eat)? Or living celebrities (imagine being the chef charged with preparing the official dinner for the G7)? You are free to choose your fellow-diners or guests.

– Imagine the setting: at your house, on the beach, in your school, in a café owned by one of your friends, on a picnic (we miss those so much right now!) ...

– Draw up the menu: the advantage is that we can let our imagination roam freely! We can play at being a great chef, look for historical recipes and organize a sumptuous banquet worthy of the 18th century Venetian nobility, or be the young cook in a Belgian bistro, a witch who knows how to concoct a potion for an object of desire, or you can dream of a giant birthday party, like a return to your eternal childhood...

And if you can imagine the feelings that your concoctions might elicit, you will be the winner of the grand “imaginary chef-host” prize.

Imagine your special guest. Then draw up the menu imagining to cook something that will meet their taste.

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