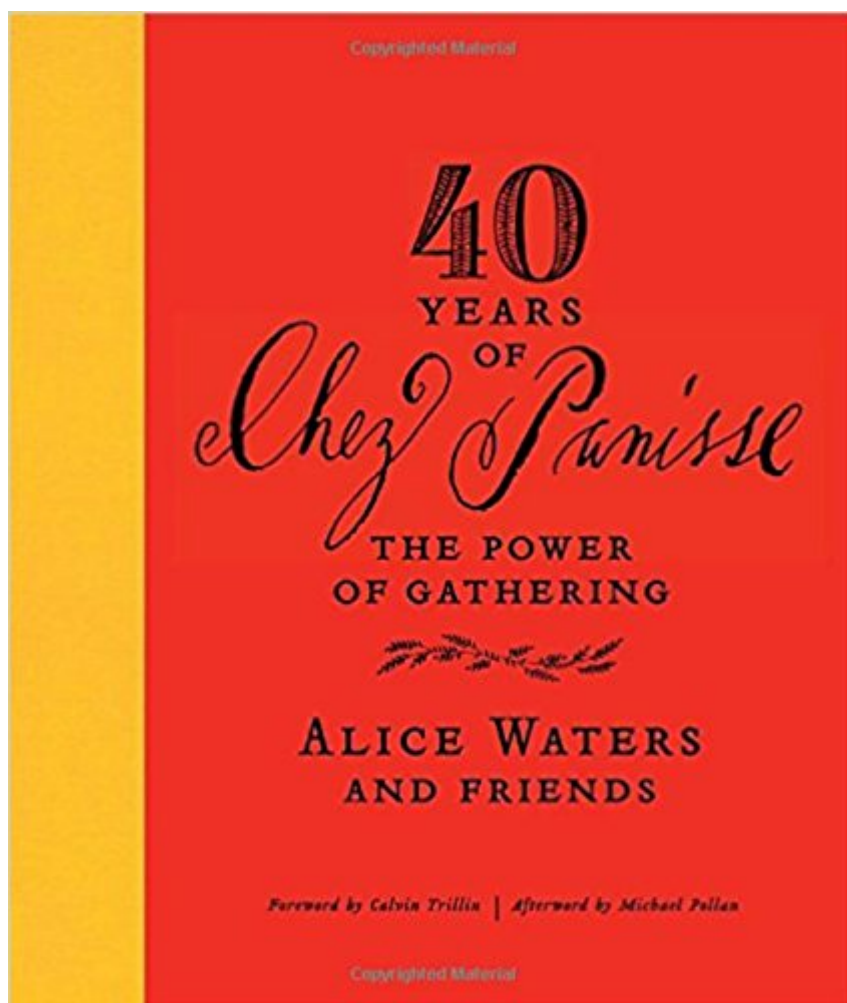


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40 Years Of Chez Panisse: The Power Of Gathering



Synopsis

Chez Panisse opened its doors in 1971. Founded by Alice Waters, the restaurant is rooted in her conviction that the best-tasting food is organic, locally grown, and harvested in ecologically sound ways by people who are taking care of the land for future generations. The quest for such ingredients has always determined the restaurant's cuisine, and, over the course of forty years, Chez Panisse has helped create a community of local farmers and ranchers whose dedication to sustainable agriculture assures the restaurant a steady supply of fresh and pure ingredients. In *Forty Years of Chez Panisse: The Power of Gathering*, Alice takes readers on her journey from the humble and visionary beginnings of the restaurant, through its rise and the acclaim, to the Café and the influential Chez Panisse Foundation. Organized by decade, the book includes a wealth of archival material and photographs—menus; invitations; pictures of Alice at the restaurant and around the world, with those who have passed through her life—and interviews from public figures and cooks who have been inspired by or mentored at the restaurant. This tribute to the delicious food revolution that began with Alice Waters and Chez Panisse is an important work for anyone who cares about food, sustainability, and the powerful legacy that Alice has built.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, August 2011: In 1971, a young Montessori teacher with no cooking experience beyond having friends to dinner inspired some of these friends to help her open a

restaurant in Berkley, serving one perfectly delicious meal each night. In *40 Years of Chez Panisse: The Power of Gathering*, Alice Waters gives a lively history of how this modest beginning grew into a mecca that helped catalyze the rise of local food culture. Photos and ephemera that evoke each decade come alive through vivid little stories from 90 other collaborators and patrons—the chefs, waiters, fishmongers, farmers, winemakers, bakers, food writers, and friends who grew with the restaurant into an extended, cross-generational family. First galvanized by political action at UCLA in the mid-1960s, Waters experienced a more personal revolution in Europe: Paris taught her how food “anchored life to the land” and café culture built community; in London, she devoured the culinary classics Elizabeth David, internalizing her ethic of seeking fresh, local ingredients and “leaving well alone”; and in Greece and Turkey, she awakened to the transformative power of hospitality. Backed by an inventive crew, Waters brought all these elements to life at Chez Panisse, buying directly from growers (giving them, for the first time, bylines on the menu) and cultivating a hospitality that extended into the community through incredible parties and initiatives like the Edible Schoolyard Project. Beyond creating four decades of memorable meals, Chez Panisse demonstrated how restaurants can shift America’s cultural relationship to agriculture and eating, a change that gains momentum each year. Destined to become a food-lit classic, this gorgeous volume pays homage to the power of gathering around a table, culminating in this luscious truth: “ripeness is all.” --Mari Malcolm

ALICE WATERS’s influence on American cooking is unrivaled. She opened Chez Panisse (named Best Restaurant in America by Gourmet) in 1971, Chez Panisse Café in 1980, and Café Fanny in 1984. She founded her career on creating dishes using fresh, local, and seasonal ingredients long before sustainability was a household term. Among her many awards, Alice has received the James Beard Best Chef in America, Humanitarian, and Lifetime Achievement awards, and most recently the French Légion d’Honneur. In 1996, she created the Chez Panisse Foundation to fund the Edible Schoolyard, a model of edible education in the public school system. She is the author of eight cookbooks, most recently *In the Green Kitchen* and *The Art of Simple Food*. For more information about Alice and Chez Panisse, please visit ChezPanisse.com and ChezPanisseFoundation.org.

Even if you own the book version, don’t overlook the audio version from Audible.com -- it’s incredible. Hear the people in the book come to life. Even Marian Cunningham and others who have passed on are in there talking away, so they must have been working on it forever. It’s wonderful,

fascinating, and less than \$5. Highly recommended.

This book is amazing. Buy it. Alice has modeled "The Power of Gathering" for 40 years. Her celebration of milestones on this journey are captivating. This book makes you want to mark the special moments in the passions you pursue. Don't let time click by, take the time to stop, invite the people who have shared in your work, and celebrate together your contributions to make an impact in the world. Alice models celebrating what you do in life, with the ones you do life with.

This retrospective of the famous 'Chez Panisse' is a delightful read. It becomes obvious that Alice Waters is only one player in the development of an entirely new genre of restaurants, indeed a new way of looking at the food we eat. Many friends pulled together to change the world of food. The locavore movement started here. Interesting that this bunch of radical-ish Berkleyites made a real change happen in the world that they never would have suspected in the late 60's and early 70's.

Wonderful Tribute to Ms. Waters

Wonderful book!

thanks was great gift

This was a book club selection and it seems a rather odd one, since it's more a browsing book than a reading book, but having lived in Berkeley when Alice Waters was first starting Chez Panisse and having been part of some of the campus goings-on at the time, I found it a nice trip down memory lane. In truth, it becomes too "in-group" for me after awhile. Too many chefs, too many foods I'd never heard of, too many things that were obviously written to include all of her friends, but of little interest to the folks who can't afford to eat at her very expensive restaurant...and whose unsophisticated palate probably wouldn't enjoy it even if they could afford to eat there.

you can't go wrong with Alice. However, the selling of her book by was a mess, first listing at \$25.00 and then upped to \$37.50. Similar thing with the new MIETTE baking book. Received notice AFTER receiving the long anticipated book that the measurements were wrong. Regardless, it is a beautifully designed book. One just wishes they could proof read.

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