Synopsis

Rice Talks explores the importance of cooking and eating in the everyday social life of Hoi An, a prosperous market town in central Vietnam known for its exceptionally elaborate and sophisticated local cuisine. In a vivid and highly personal account, Nir Avieli takes the reader from the private setting of the extended family meal into the public realm of the festive, extraordinary, and unique. He shows how foodways relate to class relations, gender roles, religious practices, cosmology, ethnicity, and even local and national politics. This evocative study departs from conventional anthropological research on food by stressing the rich meanings, generative capacities, and potential subversion embedded in foodways and eating.

Book Information

Paperback: 344 pages
Publisher: Indiana University Press (April 30, 2012)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0253223709
Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item
Best Sellers Rank: #1,110,602 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)    #67 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Asian Cooking > Vietnamese    #1975 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Customs & Traditions    #5649 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Cooking Education & Reference

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