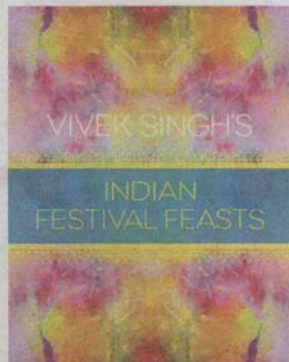


Books



INDIAN FESTIVAL FEASTS

by Vivek Singh (Absolute Press, £26)

Aimed at: students of India, people with big parties coming up

Not just a recipe book, but a commentary of India's finest festivals and the food that goes with them

'I wasn't looking forward to writing another cookbook,' sighs Vivek Singh (below). 'I wanted to go a bit deeper, so when I had this idea, it seemed to really fit.'

This idea is a book about some of the festivals in India, part-history, part-social commentary and of course, some recipes. Singh wanted to acknowledge the importance of these festivals to him, even as the world changes.

'I have great memories of the Vaisakhi festival in Delhi,' he says. 'The food is always central to celebrations and having a great time. Think of ingredients like tomatoes which have only been in India 150

years, potatoes and chillies brought by the British - everything changes, the world is a melting pot and I aim to be connected to the past but also live in the present.'

There are stories, explanations and recipes from 10 festivals including Eid al-Fitr, Diwali and Navroze. The food is sensational but some of it is not easy, and some of it will not be to every taste. There are not many cookbooks which have a warning stating that some dishes will take years to fall in love with.

'Not everything is to be loved,' he laughs. 'I think that's an important life lesson. Some of the sweets require a specialised skill and take years of practice. But that was a choice. I didn't want to dumb

down and make it all classics because that wouldn't be honest.'

All that said, there is no shortage of dishes that are easy to make - chickpea village curry, tandoori chicken and a wedding custard to name three. And there are also snacks and hand food, some of which is from his favourite festival, Holi.

'Perhaps not my favourite in terms of food,' he explains. 'But because it is very much an anything-goes event. India is a very hierarchical society, and I remember it as the only time when teachers would let their hair down.'

'Most of the festivals have some element of abstinence or fasting - but Holi definitely doesn't. You can just really enjoy yourself, so that certainly appeals to me.'



Indian festivals are known for their grand feasts. Given the varied and vast cultural fabric of India, each festival has its distinct cuisine. The emphasis of a particular festival varies by region. So if a festival is being celebrated with great fervour in a particular part of the country, there will be several other regions where this festival is not observed at all. Festival 2021- Read the year 2021 festival list and you can find the Hindu religious festival calendar date & time for year 2021. 2021 Festivals. Festivals are an important part of our lives; they represent the beauty of our culture and our age old traditions. India is one of the most religiously and ethnically diverse nations in the world and almost every state in our country has their own traditional festival and feast associated with it. Popular Indian Festivals in September 2020 - Find here important Festivals in September 2020 in India covering North India, South India Fairs and events etc. This festival covers display of relics, archery competition, panel discussion, feast of traditional food and many others. This festival takes place on September, once in 12 years. The last festival took place in 2018.