

Ivan Ramen: Love, Obsession, and Recipes from Tokyo's Most Unlikely Noodle Joint

By Ivan Orkin, Chris Ying

The end-all-be-all guide to ramen featuring more than 40 recipes from Ivan Orkin, the iconoclastic New York-born owner of Tokyo's top ramen shop.

While scores of people line up outside American ramen powerhouses like Momofuku Noodle Bar, chefs and food writers in the know revere Ivan Orkin's traditional Japanese take on ramen. *Ivan Ramen* chronicles Orkin's journey from dyed-in-the-wool New Yorker to the chef and owner of one of Japan's most-loved ramen restaurants, Ivan Ramen. His passion for ramen is contagious, his story fascinating, and his recipes to-die-for, including the complete, detailed recipe for his signature Shio Ramen, master recipes for the fundamental types of ramen, and some of his most popular ramen variations. Likely the only chef in the world with the knowledge and access to convey such a candid look at Japanese cuisine to a Western audience, Orkin is perfectly positioned to author what will be the ultimate English-language overview on ramen and all of its components. *Ivan Ramen* will inspire you to forge your own path, give you insight into Japanese culture, and leave you with a deep appreciation for what goes into a seemingly simple bowl of noodles.

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This is an autobiography—and a cookbook, of sorts. More than that, it's a journey of the making of an American ramen chef and an education into what constitutes a deceptively simple bowl of noodles in soup. Long Island-born Orkin traces his obsession with all things Japanese to his teens and college years, majoring in the language and its culture at the University of Colorado. After years of working unloved jobs and traveling to and from Asia, Orkin changed his life by attending the Culinary Institute of America and eventually secured stints at Lutèce and Restaurant Associates and opened a ramen shop in Tokyo. Thanks to his discovery by such celebrities as Ohsaki-San (Japan's acknowledged ramen expert and manufacturer Sapporo Ichiban, among other good-luck encounters, Orkin established a following. Back in Manhattan, he now offers this book instructing readers in the ramen-making process: half-dozen-plus components fabricated from ingredients, all photographed and meticulously detailed in more than 30 recipes. Perhaps the tasks may be too complex, but by the end, all readers will gain an appreciation of the intricacies of ramen. -- Barbara Jacobs

Review

"Ivan Ramen is a wonderful glimpse into the delicious, inspiring world of Ivan Orkin."

—Danny Bowien, James Beard Award–winning chef of Mission Chinese Food

"We are all fortunate that a young Ivan Orkin, growing up in 1970s suburban Long Island, fell in love with Japanese food. If he hadn't, the world would never know Ivan's amazing ramen, one of the most powerfully delicious noodle soups on the planet."

—Chad Robertson, James Beard Award–winning chef, author, and co-founder of Tartine Bakery and Bar Tartine

"Ivan has dedicated his whole life to understanding and creating the perfect bowl of ramen, and he has mastered the two most critical elements: the noodles and the broth. He consistently delivers the best bowls I've experienced in my life. Completely authentic, completely delicious."

—Ming Tsai, James Beard Award–winning chef, author, and owner of Blue Ginger and Blue Dragon

"What Ivan Orkin does not know about noodles is not worth knowing."

—Anthony Bourdain chef, author, and host of *Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown*

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