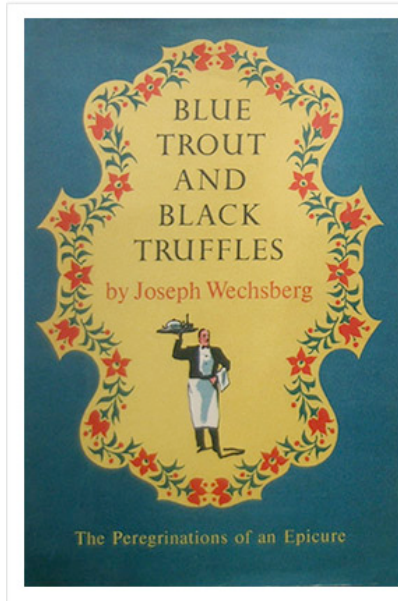


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Question of the Week: What Food Book Do You Absolutely Cherish?



This past Sunday, a good friend, [Chef Chris McDonald](#) of [Cava and XocoCava](#), took the time to prepare a lovely long weekend brunch for my husband and I. While digesting the delectable menu of sweet wheat berry salad and some kinda' crazy Mexican tortilla + ground turkey + "queso fresco" pie, in an armchair in his living room, I snooped. **And what my snooping yielded was *Blue Trout and Black Caviar: The Peregrinations of an Epicure* by Joseph Wechsberg.**

Joseph Wechsberg, an Austrian-born Jewish writer, escaped the Second World War via an assignment in New York City and found himself writing sparkingly witty accounts of, among other things, his epicurean travels for *Esquire*, *Gourmet Magazine* and *The New Yorker*.

The cover of the 1965 edition, newer copies available on [Amazon.ca](#)

I wasn't surprised to learn that I was leafing through a **1965 edition of this celebrated volume, originally published in 1953** – the cover spoke immediately of another time and drew me right in. After reading the chapter on "Tafelspitz" – **boiled fillet of beef, Viennese style** – I knew this book was a goldmine. In it, a collection of Wechsberg's belly-, heart- and mind-warming musings on **the grand cuisines of Europe**, from the South of France to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The language alone had my mind swimming, pointing to the fact that few food books for me, have been this fun to read.

I am now obsessed with this book and have to have it. Chris wouldn't give me his vintage copy which he nabbed at an antique book dealer's (I guess I understand).

When I get this book, I will cherish it. It is a capsule of glorious, unabashedly subjective foodie-ism, the genuine kind that predates the largely contrived, flash-in-the pan epi-tour books, clogging our bookstores.

I do feel strongly about this -- it's true. **Is there a book that does this for you?**

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Published by Elana Safronsky

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