

MOSAIC

China's gastronomy book still inspires chefs after 200 years

In a banquet room with a view of West Lake in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, a chef revealed to me a source of inspiration as legendary as the scenery outside the windows: the celebrated poet and gourmet Yuan Mei, who wrote *Suiyuan Shidan* (*Recipes from the Garden of Contentment*), the seminal manual of Chinese gastronomy published in 1792.

Suiyuan Shidan, which I had only discovered months before, after reading the first English translation of the book, has long been hailed as the first great guide to Chinese cuisine.

Candid camera: Salt of the earth

Workers harvest raw salt at a salt lake in Yuncheng, Shanxi province, last week.

XUE JUN / FOR CHINA DAILY



This Day, That Year



Editor's note: This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of New China.

On June 24, 1973, Tianjin and Kobe, Japan, signed a sister city agreement. It was the first such agreement between a Chinese and foreign city.

Since then, more than 250 pairs of cities in China and Japan have established similar ties, according to the Chinese People's Association for

Friendship with Foreign Countries. Altogether, about 500 Chinese cities and provinces have established more than 2,570 sister relationships with cities in 136 countries and regions.

In March, 1979, Beijing and Tokyo became sister cities.

An item on April 21, 1986, from China Daily showed runners from China and Japan participating in a marathon in Beijing to mark the seventh anniversary of the special relationship.

In 1980, the Port of Kobe established friendly ties with the Port of Tianjin. Five years later, the Kobe Trade Information Office was established in Tianjin. The cities have

focused on business and youth exchanges, as well as cooperation for urban problem solving.

In 2008, the first China International Friendship Cities Conference was held in Beijing. It convenes every two years, with the next gathering to be held in Kunming, Yunnan province, next year.

During the 2018 China International Friendship Cities Conference in Wuhan, Hubei province, three Chi-



nese cities and one province signed agreements to establish friendly relations with their counterparts in Mongolia, Thailand, Kenya and Canada.

The newspaper and beyond

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EU court declares Adidas trademark invalid

The European Union's second-highest court ruled on Wednesday that the three-stripe trademark of Adidas was invalid as a trademark because it lacks a distinctive character. The general court of the European Union upheld a decision of the European Intellectual Property Office in 2016 to annul a previous decision accepting the mark. The German sporting goods company registered the trademark in 2014 for clothing, footwear and headgear.



Researchers learning how to detect fake images

Adobe has unleashed the powers of machine learning to automatically detect when images of faces have been manipulated. According to the company, its researchers created an extensive training set of images by scripting Photoshop to use Face Aware Liquify on thousands of pictures scraped from the internet. In addition, an artist was hired to alter images that were mixed in the data set. The tool identified specific areas and methods of facial warping. In the experiment, the tool reverted altered images to a calculation of their original state, with results that impressed the researchers. The technology may provide an answer to the latest trend of "deepfakes", in which a speaking person's image and words are altered but appear real.

Selfies motivate requests for plastic surgery

Plastic surgery clients are getting younger globally, and doctors and psychologists are pointing to the rise of social media as playing a role. "Snapchat dysmorphia", a phenomenon coined in a 2018 paper published in a JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery Viewpoint by Boston University researchers, refers to a trend in which people bring plastic surgeons their own heavily doctored or filtered selfies for reference.



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Biz: Harley-Davidson to launch motorcycle

Zhejiang Qianjiang Motorcycle Co has signed a cooperation agreement with US motorcycle maker Harley-Davidson to launch a bike in China next year. Qianjiang and Harley-Davidson plan to develop a premium 338cc Harley for sale in China. The new bike and its engine will be manufactured at Qianjiang's factory in Wenling, Zhejiang province. Founded in 1985, Qianjiang acquired Benelli, an Italian motorcycle maker with a 100-year history, in 2005.



Society: Wuhan to test sky train this year

China Railway Science and Industry Group Corp in Wuhan, Hubei province, is developing a suspended monorail vehicle known as the Sky Train. It's expected to be in operation by the end of this year. With a design similar to a subway train, the suspended monorail has carriages measuring 11

meters long and 2.4 meters wide. A 1-kilometer railway line suspended 500 meters above the ground for trial operations is under construction.

Tech: Researchers design 3D bionic bones

Researchers from the Northwestern Polytechnical University in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, are designing bionic bones with improved biological compatibility and mechanical strength, which will bring new possibilities for future orthopedic implants. They have spent more than 15 years developing artificial bones that are close to natural bones. Bone defects are among the most common conditions treated in orthopedic medicine, and scientists have been exploring new methods to fabricate bone scaffolds to repair them.

World: New York state recognizes China Day

The New York State Senate on Tuesday passed a resolution to recognize Oct 1 as China Day to strengthen the state's friendship with Chinese-Americans. The resolution also recognizes the first week of October this year as Chinese-American Heritage Week. James Sanders Jr., the state senator representing

the 10th senatorial district in southeast Queens in New York City, said the resolution is significant in promoting friendly relations and cooperation between New York and China. He noted that China has made remarkable progress over the decades and is playing an increasingly important role in international affairs.



Animals: A stray polar bear in Russia

Russian emergency authorities last week mounted an operation to rescue a stray bear wandering the streets of Norilsk. A member of the response team shot a tranquilizer into the bear, which was then placed in a container and onto a helicopter. It flew the bear to its hometown, Chukotka. The animal was then released into the wild.

Online

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their offerings on the table.

Chef Fang at the Hangzhou Restaurant, an eatery that has served up authentic Hangzhou-style food since 1921, stands as one such example. In late April, he demonstrated for me how to prepare *qingtang yuyuan*, or fish balls in clear broth, an interpretation of Yuan Mei's recipe that proved incredibly elegant.

He used only fish meat scraped from the bones, water and salt for the balls, omitting the lard and starch mentioned in the pages of *Suiyuan Shidan*. According to Fang, the correct proportion of water and salt to fish meat would naturally allow the ingredients to bind together. He even produced a digital scale, weighing out salt and water to the exact gram, based on



Qingtang yuyuan is displayed at a food expo in Nanjing, Jiangsu province.

JIAN HUA / FOR CHINA DAILY

preparing food, chefs can glean more insight from this esteemed culinary bible, turning to its pages to refine their talents, as well as

the amount of fish meat he had. I watched chef Fang then mix the ingredients together with his hands, just as the original recipe had stated — and as a seasoned chef, he understood how and how long, continuing until it took on a uniquely frothy texture.

Next, he squeezed small portions of the mixture into a pot of water over low heat to create the fish balls, which looked almost like floating puffs of cream. He even enhanced the presentation, originally calling for the fish balls to be served in broth with seaweed, through an additional topping of thin slivers of egg, sliced after frying it into a delicate pancake.

It's extraordinary that in the master hands of Fang a recipe from *Sui-*

yan Shidan could suddenly emerge anew more than 200 years later on the tables of the Hangzhou Restaurant, delighting the diners of a new era. *Qingtang yuyuan* has rocketed into the restaurant's top 10 most-popular dishes on its page in Dazhong Dianping, China's version of Yelp — a reminder of how the culinary treasures contained in Yuan Mei's manual can still sparkle today under the direction of an outstanding chef.

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Online

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What's on

Remote Shanghai
When: June 27-30, 2 pm
Where: Shanghai

Shanghai has joined an international phenomenon staged all over the world — from Moscow to New York, Milan to Bangalore — to interact with theater audiences through the playful guidance of a computer-generated voice and live actors.

People who have never met before come together to explore the city through artificial intelligence. GPS takes center stage and transforms Shanghai into a living playing field. The starting point is Gate No 3 at Longhua Martyrs' Cemetery.

A Dream of Red Mansions Music Legend
When: June 28-30, 7:30 pm
Where: Great Theater of China, Shanghai

A Dream of Red Mansions Music Legend is based on composer Wang Liping's music from the 1987 television drama, reorchestrated and rearranged by composer and conductor Cai Donghua as part of his yearlong music legends series.

Described as a highbrow *Mamma Mia!*, it will take you inside a classic novel you'll probably never read.

The television drama is based on the classic novel *A Dream of Red Mansions* by Cao Xueqin during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). It tells a story about the Jia clan's wealth and influence, and of its fall, as their mansions are raided and confiscated.

The carefree male heir of the family, Jia Baoyu was born with a magical piece of jade in his mouth. He experiences a bitter-sweet life and finally understands that life is nothing more than a long dream.

Swan Lake Paris Opera Ballet
When: June 29-July 1, 7:30; June 30, 2 pm
Where: Shanghai Grand Theater

Based on an imaginary theme with the love of a prince for a young bird who is a poetic and unreal creature, *Swan Lake* is servant to numerous symbolic and psychological interpretations.

In the Petipa and Ivanov version handed down by Russian tradition, the choreographic and dramatic interest is centered on the ballerina who plays and dances a dual role: Odette, white swan — lyrical showcase, and Odile, black swan — dangerous seductress, the prince being reduced to become the instrument of fate.

Choreographer Rudolf Nureyev completely reversed the situation.

In his version of *Swan Lake*, heroes and heroines try to get away from their situation, their entourage and their closed and stifling worlds and to escape to the often imaginary "elsewhere".

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Irina Mejoueva Piano Recital
When: June 26, 7:30 pm
Where: Shanghai Culture Square

Born in Gorki, Russia, Irina Mejoueva studied at the Gnesin Institute of Music in Moscow under pianist Vladimir Tropp. In 1992 she won first prize at the Eduard Flipse Piano Competition in Rotterdam, which led her to start a career as a pianist. She settled in

Tokyo in 1997, and has been engaged in performances in Japan and other Asian countries.

She includes works from the Baroque period through the classical school up to modern times, as well as music by Russian composer Nikolai Medtner. She has recorded for Wakabayashi Koubou, Denon and other Japanese labels.

In 2010 her recording of Chopin's *Nocturnes* was awarded the Record Academy Prize in Japan. In 2014 she received the 27th Music Pen Club Award in Japan.

Alexander Ullman Piano Recital
When: June 27, 7:30 pm
Where: Shanghai Grand Theater Buick Theater

Praised for his subtle interpretations and refined technical mastery, British pianist Alexander Ullman has impressed audiences and critics worldwide with his deep understanding of the scores he interprets, his elegant touch and crystalline phrasing.

Winner of the 2017 International Franz Liszt Piano Competition in Utrecht, the Netherlands, he has appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, working with conductors such as Vladimir Ashkenazy and Giancarlo Guerrero.

In the 2017-18 season, he closed the Lille Piano Festival with the Orchestre de Picardie under Jean-Claude Casadesu.

Jimmy Bruno Trio
When: July 13-14, 7:30 pm
Where: Blue Note Beijing

Critically acclaimed contemporary jazz guitarist Jimmy Bruno, who was born in 1953 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, came to prominence as a musician in the 1990s, after a successful 20-year career as a sought-after commercial guitarist and session musician.

"I was making good money, but I wasn't playing any jazz. So I saved some money, moved back to Philly and just decided that I'm only going to play jazz. I'm not going to play weddings. I'm not going to take any bad gigs. And if I had to, I would take a day gig for awhile, and I did. I tended bar for two years. And it paid off. I wish somebody in school would have told me that," Bruno said.

Notre Dame de Paris
When: July 18-Aug 11, 7:30 pm
Where: Shanghai Culture Square

Based on the novel by Victor Hugo, with music by Riccardo Cocciante, *Notre Dame de Paris* is a French musical that made its debut in Paris in 1998 and has enjoyed worldwide success.

Set against the backdrop of 1482 Paris, the musical follows the life of a young and irresistibly beautiful gypsy girl named Esmeralda.

Her allure and charm capture the hearts of countless men, including the hunchback Quasimodo — who was harshly crowned as the ugliest man in the city — and the sinfully sly and soon-to-be-married Phoebus.

It tells a story about the complex internal struggles of a love triangle.