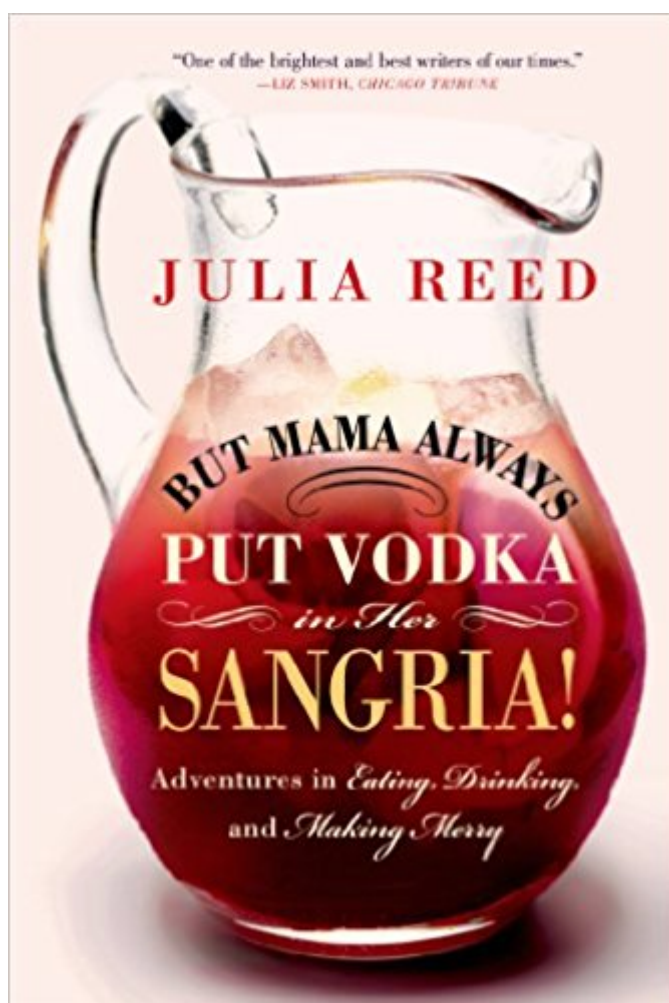


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But Mama Always Put Vodka In Her Sangria!: Adventures In Eating, Drinking, And Making Merry



Synopsis

In her new book, *But Mama Always Put Vodka in Her Sangria!*, Julia Reed, a master of the art of eating, drinking, and making merry, takes the reader on culinary adventures in places as far flung as Kabul, Afghanistan and as close to home as her native Mississippi Delta and Florida's Gulf Coast. Along the way, Reed discovers the perfect Pimm's Royale at the Paris Ritz, devours delicious chuletons in Madrid, and picks up tips from accomplished hostesses ranging from Pat Buckley to Pearl Bailey and, of course, her own mother. Reed writes about the bounty and the burden of a Southern garden in high summer, tosses salads in the English countryside, and shares C.Z. Guest's recipe for an especially zingy bullshot. She understands the necessity of a potent holiday punch and serves it up by the silver bowl full, but she is not immune to the slightly less refined charms of a blender full of frozen peach daiquiris or a garbage can full of Yucca Flats. And then there are the parties: shindigs ranging from sultry summer suppers and raucous dinners at home to a Plymouth-like Thanksgiving feast and an upscale St. Patrick's Day celebration. This delightful collection of essays by Julia Reed, a master storyteller with an inimitable voice and a limitless capacity for fun, will show you how to entertain guests with style, have a good time yourself and always have that perfect pitcher of sangria ready at a moment's notice.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Griffin; Reprint edition (June 10, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250049032

ISBN-13: 978-1250049032

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 53 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #129,269 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Humor &

Entertainment > Humor > Cooking #148 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages &

Wine > Wine & Spirits > Spirits #177 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Regional &

International > U.S. Regional > South

Customer Reviews

“If this doesn't make you hungry, and thirsty, call the doctor, you are sick.” —Roy Blount Jr.
“Julia Reed is on the loose again, this time discoursing as savvily and fearlessly and

hilariously as always on the unquestionable superiority of Southern cookery, the social status of the gin martini, Spanish paprika, and a few dozen other matters of some urgency. With each collection of essays, 'Miss Julia' just gets better and better, a voice that never loses its originality, freshness, and supreme wit.

• James Villas, author of *Pig: King of the Southern Table*, and *Crazy for Casseroles*

JULIA REED is a contributing editor at *Garden & Gun*, where she writes the magazine's "The High & the Low" column. She is the author of *Ham Biscuits, Hostess Gowns, and Other Southern Specialties*, *Queen of the Turtle Derby and Other Southern Phenomena*, and *The House on First Street, My New Orleans Story*. Reed lives in New Orleans.

Reading *But Mama Always Put Vodka in Her Sangria* was so fun, I decided to write my first book review. Julia Reed's easy, humorous style keeps the pages turning. She's definitely had a lot of fun in her life and has great tales to tell. If I had spent a weekend drinking champagne in Paris with Andre Leon Talley or learned to drink champagne at Joe and Susan Mary Alsop's house, I would write about it all the time. The book inspired me to read further about several topics she mentions. I loved the chapter about bourbon and I made a copy of the Sixth Circuit case on *Maker's Mark* which I plan to read today. I went strolling through the Internet to read more about the Delta Region and its association with hot tamales and found a great website called *Southern Foodways Alliance*. Thanks Ms. Reed, I may even subscribe to *Garden and Gun* just to keep reading your wonderful tales.

Julia is such a kick and honestly, the recipes are unique and really delicious - and that's coming from a cookbook collector and avid cook! The stories that go along with the recipes are entertaining and engaging - makes you want to hang out with her for any weekend or event! I bought the silver punchbowl just because I HAD to start making the Christmas Eggnog, when it was featured in a *Garden and Gun* issue years ago. Was time to get the book it came from! Love it and it's in the cookbook stand this month to cook from,

I'm a southern woman. I love to cook and eat and drink. I love the peculiarities of the south and grew up in the same time period. Since these were originally essays, there is a slightly disjointed feel to the book, and, of course, this is not deep and challenging reading. And most of the name dropping whizzes right over my head. But what fun! I feel like I've been on vacation after reading this book.

Somewhere between cookbook and memoir is Reed 's latest offering. She reminds me a little of Rick Bragg, minus the masculinity and melancholy of course. A fun reminiscence for any gal who has grown up south of the Mason Dixon line. I bookmarked several of her recipes to try. Thoroughly enjoyed it! Now if only I can get invited to one of her parties!!!

Received today and have spent most of day reading and plotting to cook all the recipes when I get out of the hammock. Julia Reeds life experiences, friends, personalities she has crossed paths with parties past and present are memorable and entertaining. References to travels also interesting and bring back how it was before sequester, weighing passengers and luggage and other such nuances. Lynn Ziglar

Another delightful read, full of interesting anecdotes and girth-expanding recipes. I am going to try Judy's Coleslaw soon; it will be perfect with some barbeque pork.

Julia, you say the very things I'm thinking! True Southerners will enjoy the memories this book brings back and Northerners will have, yet another, way to read how the other half think. As I read, I know these other people, in fact, I think we're distantly kin.

I wish she'd do something a little different now. This book is simply another one of essays and recipes. The first few were great (I particularly loved the one about the house in the garden district and Katrina), but I'd like to see her do something a bit more expansive now. She's a great writer, and I'm a huge fan, so I trust she will continue to give us great eating entertainment.

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