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BOOK NEWS

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The Delta Queen Cookbook: The History and Recipes of the Legendary Steamboat

Cynthia LeJeune Nobles Dishes Up Southern-Style Fare, From Crawfish en Croûte to Beignets

“Cruise along with Nobles to discover eighty years of history served up with authentic recipes, spanning the gilded age of the 1890s through the austerity of World War II right into the cutting edge cuisine of the twenty-first century. A certain Southern sensibility prevails throughout, making the entire trip an elegant experience.”—Poppy Tooker, host of Louisiana Eats! and author of Crescent City Farmers Market Cookbook

Baton Rouge, LA—The world’s last authentic overnight wooden steamboat, the *Delta Queen* cruised America’s inland waters from 1927 through 2008, offering passengers breathtaking views, luxury accommodations, rousing entertainment, and southern-style feasts. For over eighty-two years, chefs in the small galley served memorable meals—from fried chicken and creole gumbo to strawberry shortcake and praline pecan pie. *The Delta Queen Cookbook* brings the *Delta Queen*’s story to life with an engaging historical narrative and over 125 recipes prepared by the steamboat’s former chefs during their tenures in the “cookhouse.”

Nobles traces the story of the “Grand Old Lady” as she faced remarkable social, economic, and political challenges. The *Delta Queen* became a haven for illegal drinking during Prohibition, and she survived the effects of the Great Depression, World War II, and increasingly modern and sophisticated competition. Each chapter ends with authentic *Delta Queen* recipes—including Citrus and Watercress Salad with Chili Dressing, Roast Duck and Wild Rice Soup, Speckled Trout Pecan, Eggs Crawkitty, Steamboat Pudding, and more—proportioned and tested for home kitchens.

The Delta Queen Cookbook includes interviews with former crew, chefs, and passengers; over 90 historical and full-color photographs; and vintage and modern menus. History buffs, steamboat lovers, and home cooks alike will revel in the memories and tastes that make the *Delta Queen* one of America’s best-loved national treasures.

A member of the Newcomb College Culinary History Writers Group, **Cynthia LeJeune Nobles** contributed several chapters to *New Orleans Cuisine*. She lives in Baton Rouge with her husband.

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Foodways / History

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