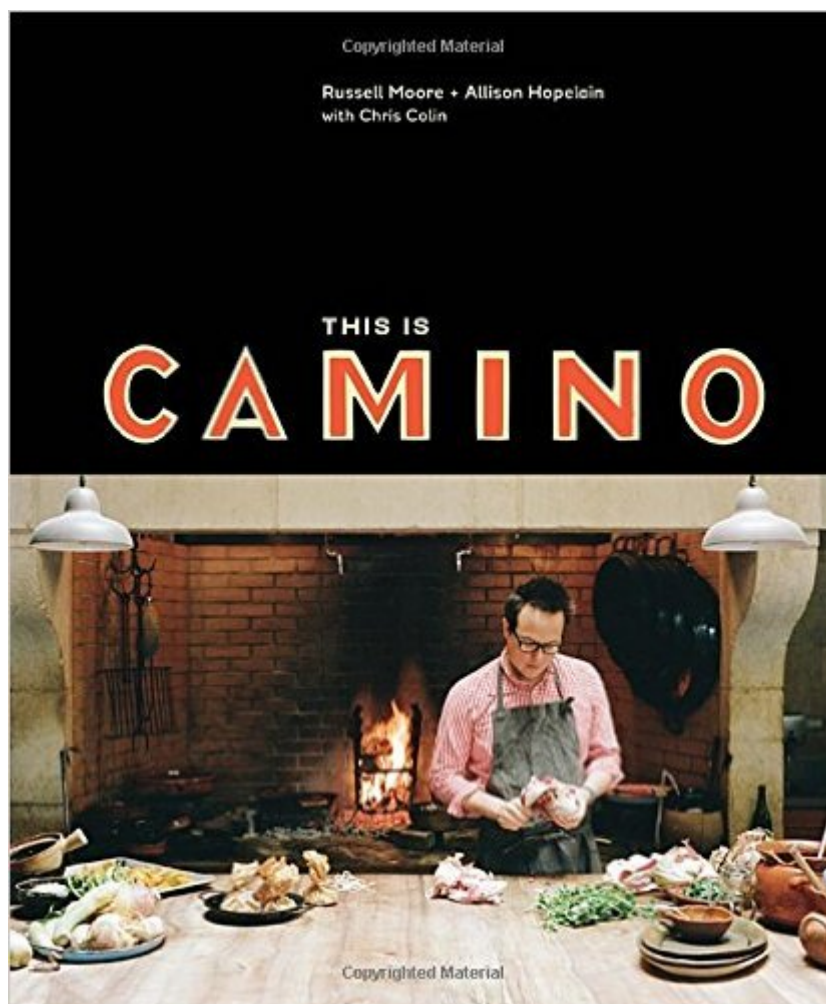


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# This Is Camino



## Synopsis

A cookbook about the unique, fire-based cooking approach and ingredient-focused philosophy of Camino restaurant in Oakland, CA, with approximately 100 recipes. Russ and Allison first opened the doors to Camino restaurant in Oakland, California, just as recession forced would-be diners home. Faced with a walk-in refrigerator full of uneaten food and an idling staff, they got industriousâ”canning, preserving, brining. This efficiency borne out of necessity soon became the driver of innovation for Caminoâ”™s cooking and the marker of a truly waste-free kitchen. But Camino is not all prudence and grandmotherly frugality. Thereâ”™s the smoldering fire at the heart of the restaurant, which likely has a whole lamb leg dangling from a string, turning as it roasts perfectly, its fat seasoning a pot of fresh garbanzo beans underneath. Or, eggplants grilling for a smoky and complex ratatouille. Or, fresh fig leaves browning over the hot embers for a surprising and unforgettable grilled fig leaf ice cream. The pared down approach to ingredients at Camino opens up a world of layered flavors and ingenuityâ”sophisticated but direct, revelatory and, in its own way, revolutionary.Â” This Is CaminoÂ” is an extension of the brilliance of the restaurant, full of deep knowledge, good humor, and delicious food.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ” See all reviewsÂ” (31 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #79,967 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 inÂ” Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Regional & International > U.S. Regional > California #155 inÂ” Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Celebrities & TV Shows #773 inÂ” Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Cooking Methods

## Customer Reviews

As an reviewer you learn very quickly not to criticize 1) a writer with a fanboy following or large extended family, or 2) a cookbook from a famous restaurant or chef. I ignored these rules in April 2015 and got a nose bleed as my Reviewer Ranking plunged 500,000 almost overnight. And just this week I have been watching my dislike (oops "unhelpful") votes rise hourly after I dissed a book

on decorative tile written by some swanky California designers. Nonetheless, we are supposed to be writing honest reviews and I am being honest when I say that the book "This is Camino" should only be purchased to celebrate a meal at the restaurant. As a memento it might be fun, but it's not worth buying if you want instruction on how to be a better home cook or more discriminating taster. Camino is a famous specialty restaurant in Oakland and if this book is any indication, Camino is quite a peculiar place. The publisher's blurb mentioned cooking over a fire and I thought we would be learning to work with some variation on an Argentine grill. No, the author cooks over a fire and tells us how to cook a gourmet meal over an open campfire out in the garden. How practical is that, oh apartment dweller? How legal in the drought? Not only are we looking at a difficult heat source, we are also searching out unusual ingredients. It is all very hip and Californian. I can't tell you how many recipes call for fresh turmeric. I live a few meters from a lovely market in a country that uses fresh turmeric all the time, but I am not the slightest bit interested in shaving and deep frying and otherwise mucking around with a root that is meant for curries. It may look pretty on the plate but often tastes like mud.

Chef's pride in his restaurant and his precise creativity is paramount in this book. And the voices in this book are not the best teachers, (although they try to "tell" us quite a lot.....). And they don't bother to give a backwards glance to us home cooks.... So, we all come second, third, fourth, and on down the ladder. Actually, from the title, I should have seen it coming.... Taking everyone into consideration--I try to cover "everyone" in the next paragraph--I'll balance out to a four star rating. Because, bottom line, this book is an act of love and it is obvious that a lot of time, effort and thought went into it. WARNING: Stop here, at this first paragraph, at your own peril, though..... And don't try to say that you weren't warned! Fans of the restaurant will love this book. San Franciscans and Californians will like this book. Others will either find the reading interesting or will be aggrieved by the arrogant attitude that the authors seem oblivious to. Some people will actually cook from it. Those "some" will be people who like to play with fire, have a love of (Argentinian) Francis Mallmann's cooking style, and are already experienced enough to not need coaching. Many, many recipes in this book feed off the fire that seems to be a main focus both in the food and the ambiance of Camino. If you are not ready to get out and grill over (and in the embers of) a wood fire, you will not be able to partake of a lot of what is in this cookbook. It may very well be a book to check out of the library before you spend money on it. Better that, than getting angry for throwing away good money.....

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