

Crime, food and humor inspired by Alfred Hitchcock

Food and wine enthralled Alfred Hitchcock, who put them into his films as images, narrative links, visual jokes, even murder weapons.

The filmmaker's complex relationship with food is celebrated in "The Sauce Was Nearly Perfect: 80 Recipes from Alfred Hitchcock," originally published in French ("La Sauce était presque parfaite: 80 recettes d'après Alfred Hitchcock") by Cahiers du Cinema in 2008, and now available in a Greek translation from **Patakis** ("I saltsa itan schedon telia").

The perpetrators – authors Anne Martinetti and Francois Riviere and photographer Philippe Asset – have a predilection for crime-flavored food, having collaborated on titles such as "Cremes et chatiments, recettes delicieuses et criminelles d'Agatha Christie" (Creams and Misdemeanors: The Delicious and Sinful Recipes of Agatha Christie).

Inspired by Hitchcock's trademark melange of suspense and humor, they serve up each recipe with brief extracts of dialogue from the film that featured or inspired the



Keeping cool at home on Bellagio Road in LA.

recipe, and fascinating snippets of information. Their book follows the filmmaker from his lonely boyhood in London, where he took solace in food, feeding the obesity he came to detest, to his burgeoning career in Britain and success in the USA.

One recipe stipulates a frozen leg of lamb, in honor of an episode in the "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" television series, where a betrayed wife strikes her errant husband down with a frozen leg of lamb. Luckily the meat suffers no harm, as the police discover.

The Scotland Yard breakfast recalls a scene in "Frenzy," where Inspec-



A baby-pink birthday cake contrasts with the somber mood of 'The Birds.'

tor Oxford has resorted to eating traditional fry-ups in his office since his wife started lessons at the Continental School of Gourmet Cooking.

A bubblegum-pink birthday cake bristling with pink candles makes a striking visual contrast to the somber theme of "The Birds."

The blueberry muffins hark back to an uncomfortable conversation over muffins between Captain Wiles and Ivy Gravelly, who have just buried a constantly reappearing body in "The Trouble with Harry."

Scores of photos from Hitchcock's life and work make the book even more appetizing.



A frozen leg of lamb might be both dinner and crime weapon.