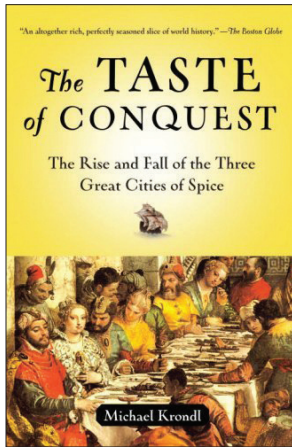


March 13, 2019

**Reading Guide:*****The Taste of Conquest: The Rise and Fall of the Three Great Cities of Spice*
by Michael Krondl**

1. Were you surprised that diners in the Middle Ages liked their food spicy? What other myths about food and spice does the author dispel?
2. We have read a lot of books about food and food history. How does food open the door to understanding a culture? Why is food an important aspect of social history?
3. How does each city become its own character in the book?
4. How does each city rise and fall as a leader in the spice trade from the 15th to the 18th centuries? How do these events alter the history of spice:
 - War in the Middle East
 - Blockades at sea
 - Protestant Reformation
5. Of all the meals described in Krondl's book, which would you have liked to share with him?
6. What do you think of earlier generations' use of spice and sugar?
7. Did you like how the author organized the book?
8. Are there cities you wish the author would have included? What was missing?
9. How does the author show food as an important part of national identity? In the past and the present?

Author Biography

Michael Kronl is a food writer, culinary historian, cooking teacher, and artist. He has authored articles on food and travel for the likes of *Gastronomica*, *Saveur*, *Condé Nast's Traveler*, *Marie Claire*, *New York Newsday*, *Family Circle*, and *Saturday Night*. Kronl is the author of *The Donut: History, Recipes and Lore from Boston to Berlin*, *The Taste of Conquest: The Rise and Fall of the Great Cities of Spice*, and *Sweet Invention: A History of Dessert*. He was recently named an associate editor on the *Oxford University Press Companion to Sweets* and as an editor on *Savoring Gotham*, a foodie companion to New York City.

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