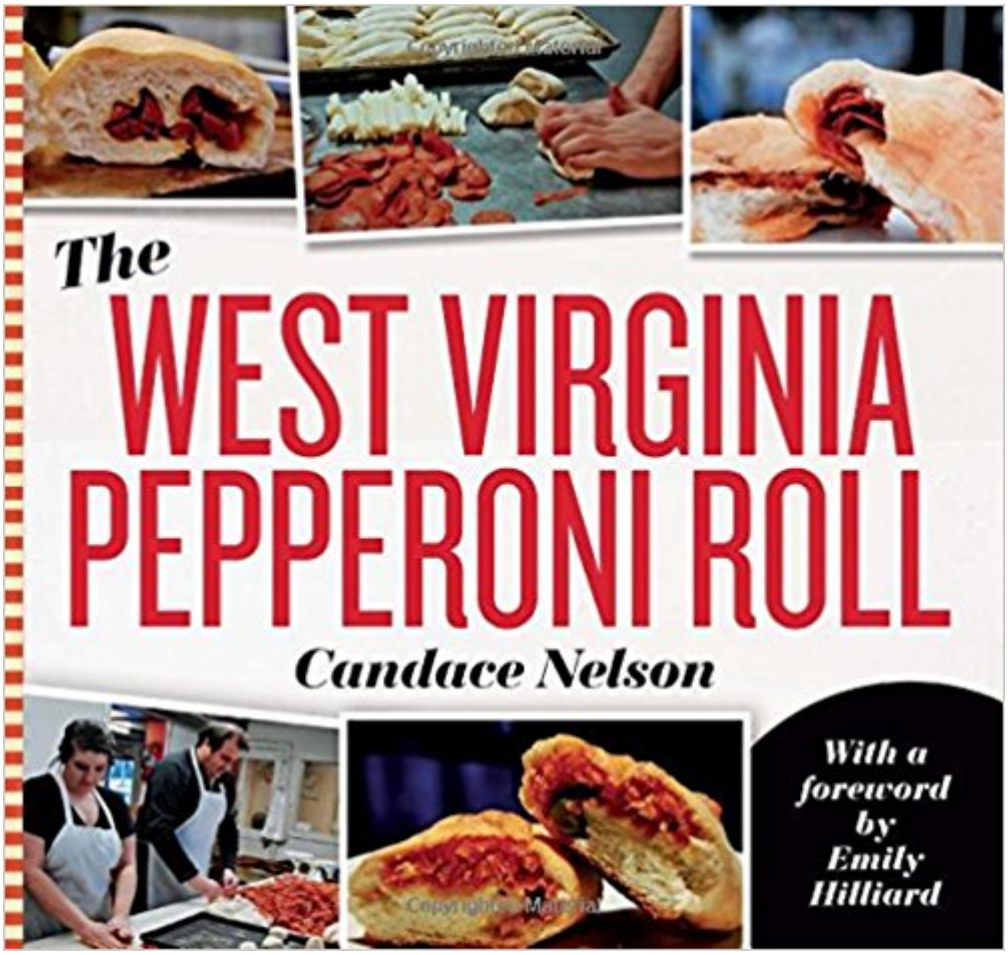
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The West Virginia Pepperoni Roll



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Synopsis

The pepperoni roll, a soft bread roll with pepperoni baked in the middle, originated in the coal mining areas of north central West Virginia when Italian immigrants invented a food that could be eaten easily underground. This spicy snack soon found its way out of the mines and into bakeries, bread companies, restaurants, and event venues around the state, often with additional ingredients like cheese, red sauce, or peppers. As the pepperoni rollÃ¢â ¬â„¢s reputation moves beyond the borders of West Virginia, this food continues to embody the culinary culture of its home state. It is now found at the center of bake-offs, eating contests, festivals, as a gourmet item on local menus, and even on a bill in the stateÃ¢â ¬â„¢s legislature. The West Virginia Pepperoni Roll is a comprehensive history of the unofficial state food of West Virginia. With over 100 photographs and countless recipes and recollections, it tells the story of the immigrants, business owners, laborers, and citizens who have developed and devoured this simple yet practical food since its invention.
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Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages
Publisher: West Virginia University Press (June 1, 2017)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1943665745
ISBN-13: 978-1943665747
Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.5 x 9.5 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews
Best Sellers Rank: #40,012 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 inÃ Â Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Italian Cooking #47 inÃ Â Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Regional & International > U.S. Regional > South #92 inÃ Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Human Geography

Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“In The West Virginia Pepperoni Roll, Candace Nelson offers us an insiderÃ¢â ¬â„¢s take on the pepperoni roll, exploring the history, science, great pepperoni roll debates (sticks v. slices, Sheetz v. the people of West Virginia), cultural context, regional variations, and adaptations as only a native could. As the nature of my work as state folklorist takes me all over West Virginia, hungry both in appetite and in my quest to sample local traditional cultureÃ¢â ¬â •including foodsÃ¢â ¬â •I

am grateful to have such a guide.Ã¢â ¬Â• From the foreword by Emily Hilliard Ã Â

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The book is a wonderful account of how ingrained the pepperoni roll is in the history of WV. On top of that, it shows how rich of a culture has developed over decades and what it means to its residents with its personal accounts of WV natives, young and old.The book also makes note of how the miner's meal is adapting and can be adapted as the general public are becoming much more informed eaters. She discusses the basic elements and ingredients of a pepperoni roll, beyond how to make it but then goes a step further providing a different take on the roll to accommodate those with special food preferences.The pepperoni roll is a simple food: bread, pepperoni, cheese (if you feel like getting into a fight). It would be incredibly easy to overlook and underestimate as a food of importance but it definitely matters to those who grew up around it. It also serves as a reminder for West Virginians of where the state came from, especially as the state is undergoing an identity crisis amidst a global shift in energy production. Candace's book is a thorough and accessible peek into WV history through its beloved snack.Also, pepperoni rolls with slices are superior to stick.

Celebrating all things West Virginia including my favorite thing- the pepperoni roll! Great work, Candace!

I was able to get an advance copy of this book and found it to be a fascinating (and salivating) read.

The pepperoni roll is both a wonderful piece of Appalachian culture and a delicious snack perfect for tailgates, picnics, fundraisers, and as you'll learn in the book, a quick meal for a hard-working coal miner. Candace is a regional celebrity due to her extremely popular food review blog, and she used those skills and her West Virginia upbringing to hit this one out of the park. I highly recommend you check this book out. It's rare to find something so uniquely delightful.

Wonderful and fascinating read. Well written and filled with imagery that will make you angry--because you don't have one of those amazing pepperoni rolls to eat right now! I highly recommend this addictive read!

As a native of north central West Virginia pepperoni rolls are more a meal or snack they are part of your culture. This book does an amazing job of providing more detail about the history of the pepperoni roll and how it has become integrated into so many families stories.

This is a great comprehensive guide to West Virginia's favorite food: The Pepperoni Roll. Great photos, recipes and full history of this tasty snack.

Wonderfully written and a beautiful view into West Virginia's pepperoni roll history!

Well written. Great pictures. Awesome pepperoni rolls.

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