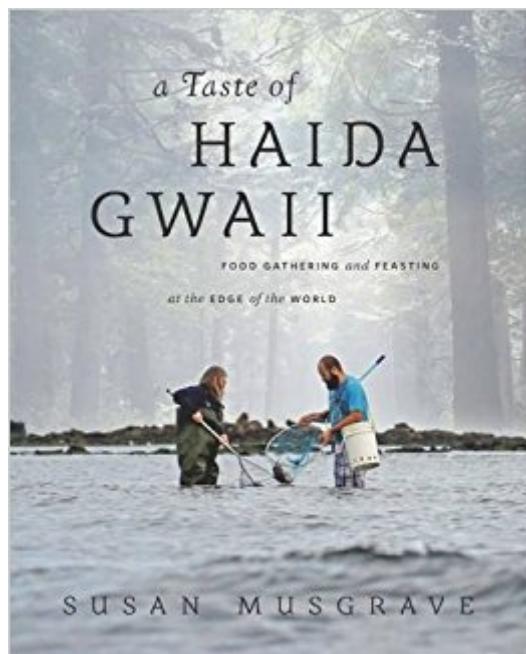


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# Taste Of Haida Gwaii: Food Gathering And Feasting At The Edge Of The World



## Synopsis

Using her esoteric knowledge of food and her love of the island's colorful locals, Susan Musgrave introduces readers to the remote British Columbian island of Haida Gwaii. With her good humour and incisive wit, she tells stories from her time living on the island and the people who live there. She shares recipes of the delicious food she makes at her guest house and how to forage for and cook with local ingredients. This book offers a unique take on food that could only be developed living on a remote island.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A Taste of Haida Gwaii [...] made me want to immediately set the book aside and email Copper Beach House on Haida Gwaii to reserve a room in anticipation of breakfasting on Susan Musgrave's signature scrambled eggs, accompanied by a slice or two of her still-warm-from-the-oven sourdough bread, with the legendary B.C. poet herself presiding at the stove. Musgrave is a born storyteller, and A Taste of Haida Gwaii is peppered with anecdotes from a life that's been full of incident. [...] You turn the pages, moving from one mouth-watering recipe to another, the spaces in between filled with the kind of stories that one friend would regale another with over a mug of tea and a plate of freshly baked cookies, while storm winds whip through the cedars just outside the door.' — Vancouver Sun

Winner of the 2016 Taste Canada Awards in the Regional/Cultural Cookbooks category

## the Bill Duthie Booksellers' Choice Award

An amazing book. It's about so much more than cooking! Susan's stories are funny, wise and entertaining! The recipes are great. The food gathering stories are adventuresome and true. Having spent 8 years on Haida Gwaii, tasted Susan's cooking and watched her bread making technique, this book succeeds in returning me to that time and makes me hungry for more! Clams, scallops, crabs, fish, fish fish. Berries, berries, berries, and stories. Susan can tell a great story. I wish Susan could come with every book. But to really experience it all, go stay at her Bed and Breakfast, COOPER BEECH HOUSE in Massett, Haida Gwaii. It's a bucket list item you didn't even know about!

Beautifully written cookbook memoir. Self published. Many unusual recipes. Essential for a cook totally immersed in Indisn food ingredients and folkways.

The best cookbook, fun to read and introduces you to a place you need to visit. Loved it. Thank you

Awesome book!!

Susan Musgrave has a wonderfully droll sense of humour, is a novelist and fine poet and runs Copper Beach House in Masset on Graham Island, the largest of the islands of Haida Gwaii. All of these aspects of her wit and wisdom have gone into the making of this gorgeous book. A feisty feast of all things Haida Gwaii. For those who don't know, Haida Gwaii is described as a "remote archipelago" off the northern coast of British Columbia, Canada. There are thirty-four words for "salmon" in the Haida language, and they're included along with stories about Haida culture. Musgrave bought Copper Beech House from David Phillips in 2010. Many famous people have visited through the years including Pierre and Margaret Trudeau in the mid-seventies. (Pierre Trudeau was the 15th Prime Minister of Canada and his son Justin is Canada's current Prime Minister.) A recipe for Mussels Trudeau is included as well as Beets Margaret Atwood. Besides cooking the food featured in the recipes and menus in the book, Musgrave did the "food styling" and took many of the photographs. Another of the photographers was Michelle Furbacher, art director at Whitecap. I can only imagine how much fun she had getting to eat the foods she photographed: Potatoes Haida Gweccchio for instance, and Copper Beech House Clam Chowder. And as A Taste of Haida Gwaii is about food gathering as well as feasting,

Musgrave does that too. She has arranged the wild foods she gathers in order of their appearance—“from seaweed and elderflowers in the spring to chanterelles and other wild mushrooms in the fall, with one exception. For easier reference I have grouped the Berries of Haida Gwaii in one section, starting with salmonberries in spring and ending with cranberries in fall,” she writes in her chapter, “Food Gathering All Year Round.” As Musgrave says in the section on picking and pickling Sea Asparagus, also called “beach asparagus: “[Food gathering] gets you out of the house, out of the kitchen, and you come home with a whole new appreciation for being outdoors—with a purpose!” The journey through the book is a delightful one with tales of “rogues” Musgrave has known; stories from her early years; and “Asides,” one of which is entitled “Cilantro.” There are those who hate cilantro and they can’t help it she learned. They may be “genetically predisposed.” Still, the word “cilantrophobia” is a great one. Some of Musgrave’s poetry is featured and her prose is lyrical too. In the section on “Wild Roses or Nootka Roses,” she writes: “I have intoxicating memories of driving down to the Village of Old Massett on a fiercely windy but warm afternoon in June, and plucking wild rose petals, soft as the kisses of moths, while the bouldery clouds blew by overhead and ravens spoke in tongues from the trees.” My partner and I plan to visit Copper Beech House in the future and experience, for a short time, the type of life Susan Musgrave has enjoyed for several decades. She plans her “activities around the incoming and outgoing tides, the rising and setting sun.”

by Mary Ann Moore for Story Circle Book

Reviews reviewing books by, for, and about women

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