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# EXPLORING CHINA

A CULINARY ADVENTURE

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KEN HOM AND CHING-HE HUANG TRAVEL ACROSS CHINA  
TO DISCOVER THE TRADITION AND INNOVATION  
AT THE HEART OF CHINESE COOKING

Ken Hom and Ching-He Huang have transformed how we cook, eat and view Chinese food. They also share a creative restlessness that inspires them to innovate and challenge Chinese cooking conventions.

Beyond an exciting culinary odyssey, this series is an emotional homecoming, a cultural adventure, and an anthropological and historical road trip. Ken and Ching travel over 5000 miles across China to confront and learn more about the conflict between tradition and innovation that is at the heart of China's food culture, both past and present.

Over four episodes they explore contrasting destinations along China's most significant trade routes. Beginning in the romantic and mystical Northern city of Kashgar their first episode ends in the exotic jungles of Yunnan province. After exploring the impact of the Cultural Revolution in the capital, Ken and Ching travel through the futuristic cities of Hong Kong and Chongqing and finally, in an emotional climax, they return to their ancestral homes to reveal the secrets of a Southern China we rarely see.

For both Ken and Ching, this road-trip has deeply personal dimensions.

Ken was born to Cantonese parents who had to flee China during the Cultural Revolution. Growing up in America, he refused to eat American school food and his mother would pack him off with a lunch box filled with Chinese delicacies. It was not until 15 years ago, however, that he chose to visit his ancestral home for the first time. Travelling to the Cantonese village where his mother was born, awakened a desire to understand more about his cultural roots.

A descendent of the Ming Dynasty, Ching's love of cooking started early. At the age of five she remembers sitting on her grandmother's knee in Taiwan, learning about the 'ying' and 'yang' philosophy of Chinese cookery. According to Han-Chinese tradition the eldest female of the household is responsible for feeding the family and her grandmother would cook daily for all their relatives. Ching always looked forward to her turn to take on this mantle.

Produced by Keo Films for BBC Two  
4 x 1 hour

Shot in HD

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