

EGON Ronay

a memoir of the man who taught
Britain how to eat



One man's dramatic journey through the 20th Century . . . born in 1915 under Austro-Hungarian rule; a cosseted early life in a family of wealthy, Budapest restaurateurs; his Jewish roots and clandestine marriage to a Catholic society girl; the ravages of the Second World War and the rescue of his uncle from Nazi deportation; the Soviet subversion of Hungary and his father's business; escape to Britain in 1946. And that is just the start of Egon Ronay's story . . . a restaurant manager in austerity Britain; a celebrated restaurateur in Knightsbridge; one of the first national newspaper food columnists; publisher of his eponymous Guides; scourge of disgusting public food; champion of a new generation of British chefs.



EGON RONAY is a collection of essays by those who knew him at all the stages of his life. Two of his fellow nonagenarians write about their charmed existence in pre-war Budapest (*József Zimányi* and *Paul Fabry*). *Antonio Bolza* and *Michael Edwards* reveal the strange life of a Ronay Guide inspector. *Francois Brocard* selects the greatest 3 star meals he consumed with Ronay. *Godfrey Smith*, *Nick Ross* and *Dante Campailla* were also Ronay's dining companions, the last doubling as his much needed lawyer. *Richard Pennycook* hired Ronay to tackle the catastrophe of motorway food while film director, *Michael Winner* and Field Marshal, *Lord Bramall*, also salute a remarkable man. *Peter Bazalgette* charts the controversial, disputatious, combative swathe he cut through post-war Britain.

He arrived penniless but built up a successful publishing business. He knew everyone but remained an outsider. He ate and drank persistently in the world's best eateries and yet lived to 94. EGON RONAY is published as a hardback on November 14th, 2011.

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