10 Temptations: Edible ivory

Savour the prized white asparagus at Chef Tobias Gensheimer's signature dinner

By Lizzie Turner

hite asparagus is one of the most highly regarded epicurean delights, due to its distinctive taste and tenderness, as well as its many health benefits. The rate at which this delicate "royal" vegetable absorbs oxygen and expels carbon dioxide after harvesting is much higher than any other vegetable, making it more perishable. This is why only the very freshest, carefully handled stems retain their crisp yet tender texture, and only the best make it into Chef Gensheimer's kitchen.

When these fresh ivory shoots start peeking through the soil, it is a sign that spring has arrived. White asparagus season is short, so Chef Gensheimer is wasting no time in bringing this luxurious delight to your table. His German roots give him the upper hand in working with asparagus, and back home, the white variety is especially favoured. He will use his signature techniques to bring out the subtle flavours of asparagus and its accompanying ingredients in true Gensheimer style.

Join him at Sha Tin Clubhouse, where he will be holding two events to celebrate this edible ivory, beginning with the Spring instalment of his 10 Temptations Dinner. This prelude will be followed by a two-week white asparagus promotion.

Chef Gensheimer's superb menu will be served with expertly paired wines that score 90-plus on Robert Parker's 100-point winerating scale. Spring has never tasted so good.



Did you know?

- In countries such as Germany, Switzerland and France, white asparagus is often referred to as edible ivory, or the royal vegetable.
- In Germany, asparagus season is called Spargelzeit. Many towns hold annual Spargelfest where people can enjoy fresh asparagus dishes and participate in asparagus peeling contests.
- White asparagus is grown under a covering of soil to deprive it of light and halt the photosynthesis process, preventing it from turning green. Unlike green asparagus, which is picked when its shoots reach around six to eight inches, white asparagus is harvested as soon as the first buds peek through the earth. This gives white asparagus its milder, tender flavour.

您知道嗎?

- ●在德國、瑞士及法國等國家,白露筍 經常被形容為「吃得到的象牙」或 「皇室蔬菜」。
- ●在德國,白露筍當造季節稱為 Spargelzeit。很多城鎮都會舉行一年一 度的Spargelfest,人們可享受新鮮白露 筍美食及參與白露筍削皮比賽。
- 白露筍生長於泥土以下,避免受陽光照射,因產生不了光合作用而沒有變成綠色。有別於生長至大約六至八吋才被採摘的青露筍,白露筍的嫩芽一穿破泥土便要立即收割。這造就了白露筍那較為溫和而柔軟的口感。

Chef Tobias' 10 Temptations Dinner– White Asparagus, With RP90+ Wine Pairing

總廚甘兆銘「十重誘惑」晚宴 —— 白露筍配RP90+美酒 May 18

White Asparagus Promotion 白露荀美饌 May 19 – June 2

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