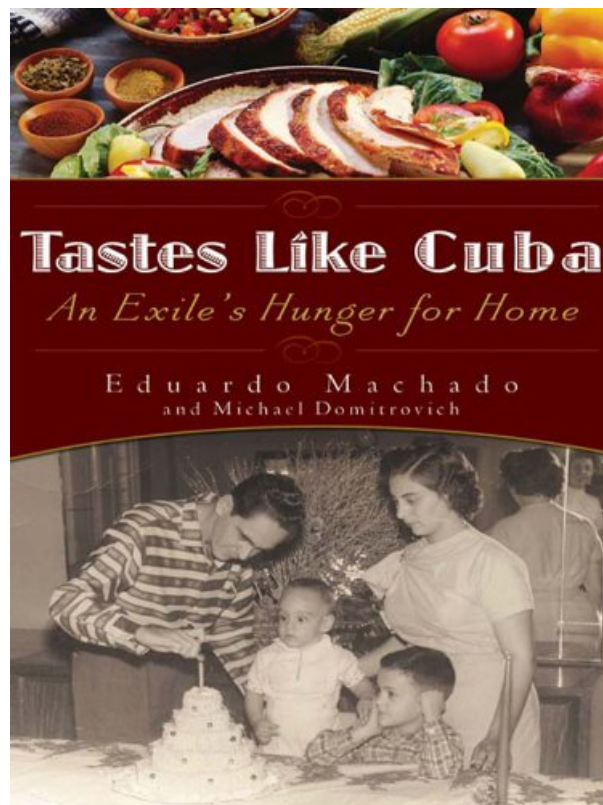
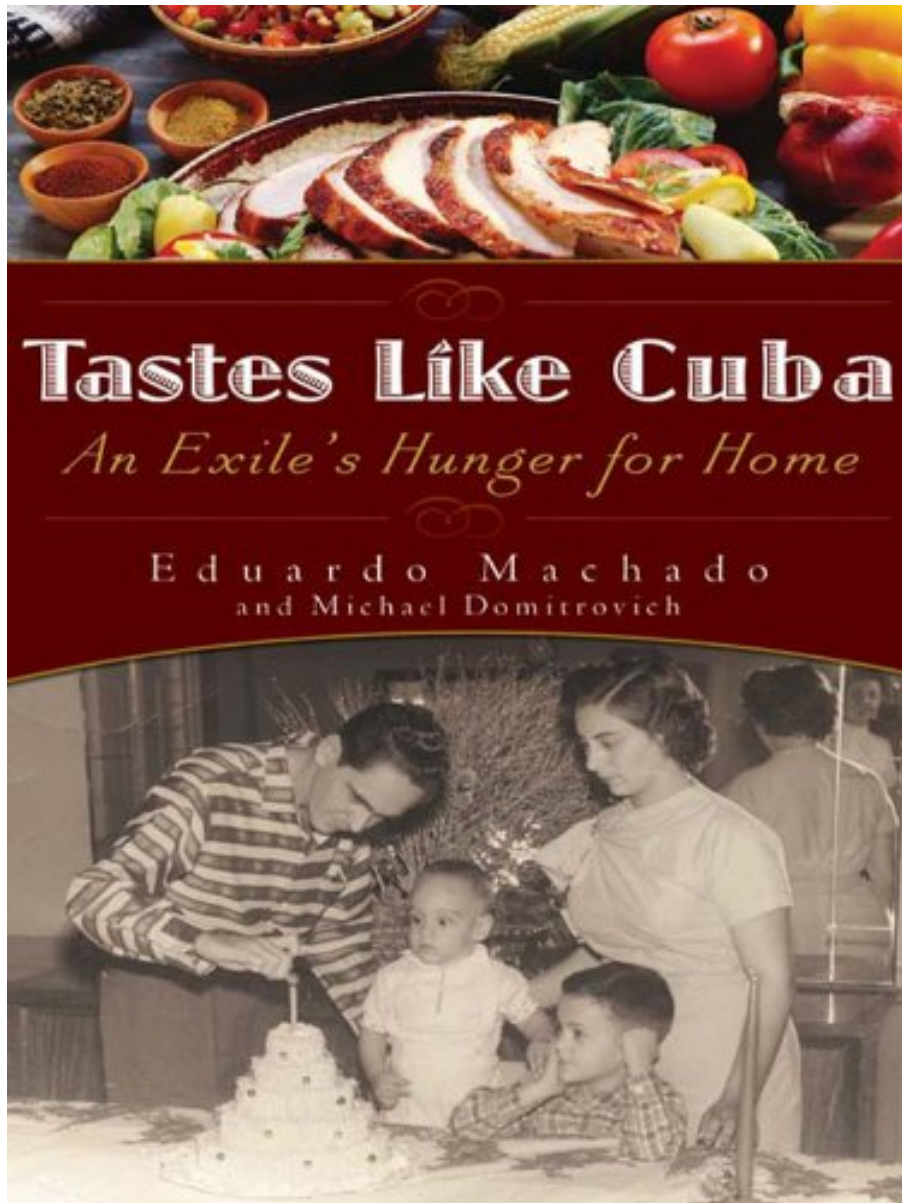


**TASTES LIKE CUBA: AN EXILE'S HUNGER  
FOR HOME BY EDUARDO MACHADO,  
MICHAEL DOMITROVICH**



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From Publishers Weekly

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Born into a well-to-do family in Cuba in 1953, Eduardo Machado saw firsthand the effects of the rising Castro regime. When he and his brother were sent to the United States on one of the Peter Pan flights of 1961, they did not know if they would ever see their parents or their home again. From his experience living in exile in Los Angeles to becoming an actor, director, playwright and professor in New York, Machado explores what it means to say good-bye to the only home one's ever known, and what it means to be a Latino in America today. Filled with delicious recipes and powerful tales of family, loss, and self discovery, Tastes Like Cuba delivers the story of Eduardo's rich and delectable life—reminding us that no matter where we go, there is no place that feels (and tastes) better than home.

- Sales Rank: #1431893 in eBooks
- Published on: 2007-10-18
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- Format: Kindle eBook

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## Most helpful customer reviews

14 of 17 people found the following review helpful.

### Self-Absorbed and Annoying

By Alina in London

I have read many Cuban exile memoirs as well as those of Polish, Russian and other exiles groups. I also have several cookbook/memoirs about "old Cuba." This memoir is really one of the most irritating of the lot. Mr Machado goes on and on about loving his homeland and yearning for the taste of its food etc. That is fine. But he also goes on and on about his issues with his family - especially about his resentment towards his parents for sending him as a "Peter Pan" child to the US (Operation Peter Pan was a way for Cuban parents to send their unaccompanied children out of Cuba under the auspices of Catholic charities. This was at a time when parents in Cuba believed that their children would be rounded up and shipped to the Soviet Union to be "re-educated." Out of desperation, they were willing to send their children and then hoped to follow them). Mr Machado at one point rants about how they sent him and his 5 yr old brother just so they could make sure he grew up the way they thought he should. Well, one would wonder at any parent who willingly separated from their child for any other reason except to save them from a fate they viewed as horrible. This is just one example of a general trend to make rather vicious statements about his family, the US govt., other Cuban exiles (especially in Miami) and anyone else that disagrees with his view. It wasn't that gripping a memoir and it wasn't really a great food related book. I would say that if you want a better Cuban exile memoir, try Pablo Medina's Exiled Memories or Gustavo Perez-Firmat's Next Year in Cuba. And if you really want have a useful cookbook that includes lots of memories and background flavor, then try A Taste of Old Cuba by Maria Josefa Lluria de O'Higgins or Memories of a Cuban Kitchen by Mary Urrutia Randelman. Both are excellent and authentic and filled with family photos and stories. Oh and the Nitza Villapol book(Cocina Criolla or Cocina al Minuto)from the 1950's which Mr Machado mentions is readily available in reprints -- you don't have to go secretly to Cuba and look in a second hand book stall.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

### Emotional and Inspiring True Life Story - And Some Good Recipes Too

By Sam I Am

The author had me hooked from page one. The writing is excellent, and my only complaint is the fact that the author included Cuban recipes in the main text of the book - it was a little bit distracting, and would have been more useful if the recipes were all in one place, at the end of the book.

However, the story that Eduardo Machado tells is wonderful, detailed and rich with memory about his Cuban childhood, and the significance that familiar foods and traditions have in our lives, especially for those who can't go home. For some American immigrants, the home country is part of their lives - they can fly back home easily, knowing that things will be the way they left them; friends will still be there, and so will most of their relatives.

For refugees, the situation is different - they know they can never go back home, and the new country is their home country. Machado's longing for food and all that is familiar will ring true to any reader who has experienced a life-altering situation, one in which things will never be the same as they were before. I completely understand the author's fascination and near-obsession with the details of food, spices and aromas.

The author's description of the downtown Los Angeles Grand Central Market is so accurate, and I have been

told by many people that visiting this open-air market for the first time made them feel like they were back home again. I highly recommend this book.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Half good, half garbage

By Ofelia De Jesus Bacaro

The first half of this book was very enjoyable and exactly what I expected, in a good way. The point of view of a child leaving the land that he loves to be planted in a strange place with different food, different weather, different landscape and different language is touching and very real-to-life, typical of early exile (early 1960's) children. The inclusion of Cuban recipes was perfect as much of the Cuban culture is centered around food.

Once he turns 15 years old, the book turns to crap. The writing seems completely different and the storyteller turns bitter and whiny and ungrateful. And the part where he goes to Cuba and is actually sympathizing with the communists? Seriously? Talk about ungrateful...makes me wish he HAD stayed in Communist Cuba so he could have lived miserably like the average person there...NOT like his visit where he could eat where and what he wanted and had liberal access to food, cigars, drinks, etc. NOT even like Gladys, who obviously had SOME privileges (keeping a house that wasn't hers, being allowed to run a paladar, having access to good food to feed patrons, etc.) Makes me wonder who SHE had to sleep with to get all of that. Anyway, if you are looking to enjoy a book that ties memories of Cuba with food, then the first half of the book is fine. The second half can be literally torn out of the book.

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