



Pascale Le Draoulec

American Pie
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Why Pie?

For as long as I can remember, I've wanted to take the back roads across America and get to know this country a little better. So when I was offered a job in New York there was no question that I would drive rather than fly into my new life.

In my San Francisco kitchen, I spent days staring at maps trying to decide which route to take cross-country. As a food writer, it made sense to turn the long drive into a culinary quest.

I chose pie as my grail because what could be more American than pie? You can find pie in every state and most Americans have some personal connection with pie.

As the daughter of French immigrants who never ate pie growing up, I was also curious about the myth of pie in America. What was this iconic dessert every American wanted "a piece of?"

I'd barely left the Western states when I realized that while I was looking for pies with character, I was finding a lot of characters who love pie.

Once I got to my new newspaper job in New York, I wrote a series of articles about my adventures on the American pieways. The response from readers was so overwhelming I knew I'd have to go back out on the road, hit the states I'd missed and write a book about this whimsical journey.

From the windswept plains of South Dakota to the bayous of Louisiana my search led me to some pretty extraordinary Americans who shared their lives, their recipes, and, sometimes, even a piece of pie with me.

—Pascale Le Draoulec