



Jim Kempton is a lifelong surfer, cook, and writer. He's been the editor and publisher of *Surfer* magazine; the director of Quiksilver's Crossing Project, a boat that searched the world for the best surf breaks; the director of media for Billabong; and the owner of the former Margarita's Village, an award-winning regional Mexican restaurant in San Clemente, California. The San Clemente resident currently serves as the president of the California Surf Museum.

ABOUT *FIRST WE SURF*

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Take your tastebuds on the trip of a lifetime!

Jim Kempton has spent his life traveling and surfing the world, along the way learning to cook the world's best beach-loving dishes. Now he's sharing his vividly colorful, richly flavorful, and vibrantly healthful collection of recipes, along with stories of the best waves, markets, restaurants, adventures, and misadventures that he's experienced—from Tahiti to Hawaii, the Basque Country to Indonesia, California to Mexico, Peru to Morocco, and beyond.

First We Surf, Then We Eat features a foreword by *The Surfer's Journal* publisher Steve Pezman, a chef's foreword by famed surfer/chef Raphael Lunetta, and photography by Bill Schildge, Jeff Divine, Art Brewer, and Tom Servais.



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TIAMOTUS, FRENCH POLYNESIA Freight on Board

The Tahitian freighter departed at dusk. Within minutes of leaving the harbor, open-ocean swells lapped at the bow of the vessel, throwing spray over the deck. Most sailors in the fifth century used thousands of miles through these waters to reach the west. While freighters languished in the Cook Aps, these people advanced slowly down the Malay Peninsula into the Indonesian Archipelago across to the Australian continent. From New Zealand they sailed small wooden canoes, without modern navigational instruments, into the vast, unknown Pacific.

In 1983, when I first visited Polynesia's outer islands, like Huahine and the Tuamotus atolls, the freighter was one of my favorite experiences. Local people used these cargo vessels as a water-borne highway. To visit relatives, they loaded passage on the freighters that carry goods to the various islands. Depart in the late afternoon, cross the channel, and arrive the following day, like an overnight train on a busy city line.

The Tahitians boarded in groups, bringing coconuts, chickens, with their belongings wrapped in parcels tied to sticks. They laid their wares made down, under their bunks, and spread out bowls of fruit and pork and fish. And then they partied. Everyone joined in playing ukuleles and singing and dancing.

Can the day partied, the stars lighting up like a willow canopy overhead. And the next morning, we all woke up entering a beautiful pass to a distant island.

Clicking on the waves at a Tahitian water line.



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ANCHOR POINT, TAGHAZOUT Anchor Point Azure

One late October, during my second voyage to Europe, Jim Allen invited me to come to a then-remote village on Morocco's southern coast where he'd surfed a powerful point with the ominous name Killen. Allen had been a seminal character at my school, where he'd taught a number of us how to shape but surfboards, then surf cars, and for some, speak clearly while standing in a cigarette from your bottom lip.

Allen showed me the grumpy footage of the surf. Story as a bookend. I couldn't wait. I'd never seen an ocean that color of bright blue. An old Becker compass, Anchor Point had been discovered by surfers only a few years before, and already had a reputation as a world-class wave.

It was a four-day drive from National Route 1, a journey not unlike the one on Pacific Coast Highway in Northern California, but without the greenery. Along the route were little roadside stands serving steaming falafels, sweet dates, and fresh, spicy salads. We arrived at an unassuming just after sundown. The low, coral-encrusted shore wall lined the white crests of the swells just enough to catch the falling light. The waves were double overhead and broke 300 yards down the point in a straight, thundering line.

That year the surf remained big but rideable almost every day through late December. Tents were all we could afford. We ate a lot of couscous with vegetable tagines.



Surfing & Cooking

The "Maitai" Mai Tai

Although the mai tai didn't originate in Hawaii, it was invented by aficionados of all things South Pacific in California in honor of the islands. Legend has it that when Trader Vic made the drink for a guest from Tahiti, she took one sip and yelled, "Maitai! maitai!" meaning, "Out of this world—the best!" This recipe is the real deal. Its roots trace to both Sam the Beachcomber in the 1950s and Victor "Trader Vic" Bergeron in his 1944 recipe, and it also pays homage to the Royal Hawaiian and Waikiki Hotel versions from 1933. And, of course, let's serve a mean rendition.

Note: Orgeat is a syrup made from whole almonds. The amount of gives the drink a unique richness that you can't get from syrup made with almond flavoring.

MAITAI'S COCKTAIL

- 1 cup crushed ice
- 1 jigger (1½ ounces) spiced rum
- 2 jiggers (3 ounces) coconut-flavored rum
- 2 ounces pineapple juice

- 2 ounces orange juice
- 1½ teaspoons orgeat
- 1 tablespoon dark rum
- 1 dash pineapple juice

In a cocktail mixer full of ice, combine the spiced rum, coconut rum, pineapple juice, orange juice, and orgeat. Shake well, strain into a bucket glass and float the dark rum on top. Garnish with a mint sprig. Or cherry. Or pineapple wedge. Or lime slice. Or whatever. You can't go wrong. The Royal Hawaiian has some versions. Whatever you choose, skip the freezing part—pour into the glass fast at sunset.

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