

throughout the same period. Lady Luxborough may have been reminded of 'city custards' when she looked at the somewhat similar shapes of the 'seven grass-plats' which she had decided to uproot and replace.

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1. Deborah Kellaway, ed., *The Virago Book of Women Gardeners*, Virago Press, London, 1995, p.33.
2. Ivan Day, 'From Murrell to Jarrin: Illustrations in British Cookery Books, 621-1820', in Eileen White, ed., *The English Cookery Book*, Prospect Books, 2004, pp. 132-3, figs. 44, 51.

GUINEA-PIGS OR 'CUY'

from Rex Fritschi

For hundreds of years theologians of all faiths have been grappling with the fundamental question: what did Jesus Christ eat at the Last Supper? I am sure this question has been keeping you awake on many a night. I have solved it. Recently, my wife and I enjoyed a brief stay in Lima, Peru, – a greatly improved and cleaned-up city. This time we explored the great Spanish colonial treasures in downtown Lima, especially the sixteenth-century monastery of San Francisco. This is a beautiful edifice embellished with huge paintings of the school of Rubens and Murillo, lovely wood carvings and acres of hand-painted tiles – all brought from Spain by galleon to Panama, carted on mule-back across the isthmus, then on another ship down the coast to Peru. The timbers, by the way, of this huge complex were carted by ship from Colombia. Exploring this monastery, we came to the huge refectory, one wall of which is covered by an immense oil painting of the Last Supper that was created in Peru (not Spain). If you enlarge it and focus on the plate in front of Jesus you will see what he is eating. It is the Peruvian national dish – a *cuy* – a roasted guinea-pig (see over).

After discovering that Jesus enjoyed a plate of roasted *cuy* I just had to experience this culinary sensation. I badgered my dear friend, Eduardo Arrarte, the founder of the venerable Lima Tours, to find me a restaurant that serves *cuy*. He found

one and here I am, ready to dig in. How did it taste, you ask? Barbara swears it was a rat, but its head and teeth look like those of a guinea pig.

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