



Sweet or hot, fresh or dried, chopped, ground, flaked or whole, five species of *Capsicum* and their dozens of varieties set taste buds tingling from North Africa and Hungary to China and Indonesia within just 50 years of their introduction. Photo by Deana Sidney.

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Back Cover



Captain's notes on a marine chart of the Bosphorus' southern mouth hint at the expertise the strait has always demanded from seamen, who today carry out a sequence of seven precision turns amid a swarm of commuter ferries and fishing boats, as well as the strait's own notorious eddies and cross-currents. Photo by Matthieu Paley.

Saudi Aramco, the oil company born as an international enterprise more than eighty years ago, distributes *Saudi Aramco World* to increase cross-cultural understanding. The magazine's goal is to broaden knowledge of the cultures, history and geography of the Arab and Muslim worlds and their connections with the West. *Saudi Aramco World* is distributed without charge, upon request, to a limited number of interested readers.



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Chiles' Global Warming

Written and photographed by Deana Sidney

Vying with Ottomans and Arabs for trade routes to black pepper-rich India, Columbus and those who followed ignited trade in New World *Capsicum* or "chile" peppers, which, unlike black pepper, adapted easily almost everywhere they were carried. From Morocco to Indonesia, by Silk Road and sea, chiles have been transforming tastes, improving nutrition and enriching culinary identities ever since.



12 **The Immigrant's Progress**

Written and illustrated by Norman MacDonald

"Without immigration, there is no progress, I have been told. In few places is this as true as Amsterdam, my own adopted home," writes the author and artist, who bicycled into his neighborhood to listen and sketch Kader, Karim, Leena, Nora, Fahim, Karsu, Osman and others.

22 Bosphorus: Strait Between Two Worlds

Written by Louis Werner
Photographed by Matthieu Paley

The 32-kilometer liquid line that winds between Asia and Europe and splits the city of Istanbul is a lifeline for marine commerce and one of the world's busiest waterways: It is also one of the trickiest straits to navigate, as tanker pilot Ahmet Turna demonstrates while northbound aboard the *M/T Ottoman Nobility*.



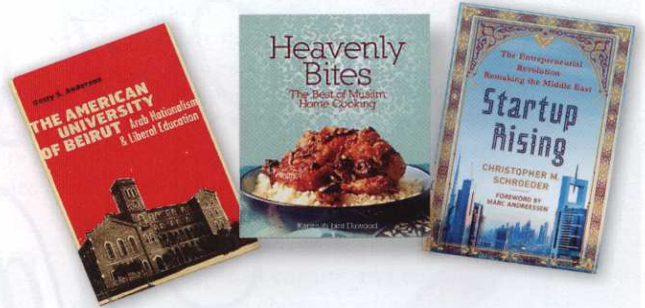
34 Unani: Medicine's Greco-Islamic Synthesis

Written and photographed by Stewart Gordon

Prevalent in western India and Pakistan yet largely unknown elsewhere, herb-based Unani medicine was born in Greece and Rome, and matured through centuries of dialogue among Arab, Persian and Indian physicians. Today it is one of India's five state-recognized non-western medical systems.



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Written by Julie Weiss

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