

Chefs angry at New York foie gras ban

3rd November, 2019



Creative Commons 2.0
via Tummy Rumble on flickr.com

Many top chefs in New York City are up in arms over a proposed ban on foie gras - the specialty food that is a common aspect of haute cuisine. Foie gras is made from the

livers of ducks and geese. The birds are force-fed with corn to enlarge their liver up to ten times their normal size. Animal rights groups say this causes the birds unnecessary suffering. The New York City council unanimously voted to ban sales of the controversial food. The bill will: "Prohibit retail food establishments or food service establishments from storing, maintaining, selling, or offering to sell force-fed products or food containing a force-fed product." A council spokesperson said: "The council is banning a really cruel and inhumane practice."

Farmers are considering suing New York City. One farmer told reporters: "We will not let this restriction on New Yorkers' freedom of choice go unchallenged in the courts, and we intend to file a lawsuit." Ariane Daguin, from a food manufacturer, said many chefs were likely to order more foie gras because they are so angry. She said: "There are 1,000 restaurants in New York City who have foie gras on their menu right now. They are all very incensed." Ms Daguin added: "Not one council member has made any effort to learn about the foie gras process and all have refused to visit the farms to understand the process first-hand." Foie gras is big business. One liver can retail for as much as \$125.

Sources: time.com / itv.com / wikipedia.org

Writing

We should not eat animals, birds or fish. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

New York / chefs / up in arms / haute cuisine / liver / ducks / geese / food / inhumane / sue people / farmer / freedom of choice / angry / restaurant / big business / foie gras

True / False

- a) Many chefs in New York City are up in arms over a foie gras ban. T / F
- b) The article said foie gras is a key element of nouvelle cuisine. T / F
- c) Ducks and geese are force-fed with bread to enlarge their livers. T / F
- d) The vote to ban foie gras was extremely tight. T / F
- e) Farmers want to take New York City to court over the ban. T / F
- f) A food manufacturer said chefs will order less foie gras. T / F
- g) One thousand restaurants in New York City offer foie gras. T / F
- h) Foie gras liver can cost as much as \$125 each. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. top | a. enraged |
| 2. aspect | b. prohibit |
| 3. enlarge | c. monstrous |
| 4. ban | d. limitation |
| 5. inhumane | e. sell |
| 6. suing | f. leading |
| 7. restriction | g. personally |
| 8. incensed | h. feature |
| 9. first-hand | i. taking to court |
| 10. retail | j. expand |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about haute cuisine?
- c) Do you think the farmers will win their court case?
- d) Is eating food from force-fed animals freedom of choice?
- e) What is your favourite restaurant and why?
- f) When was the last time you were incensed?
- g) What do you think of the price of foie gras?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the chefs?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. top chefs in New York City are up | a. in the courts |
| 2. food that is a common aspect | b. enlarge their liver |
| 3. force-fed with corn to | c. incensed |
| 4. up to ten times | d. New York City |
| 5. banning a really cruel and | e. in arms |
| 6. Farmers are considering suing | f. first-hand |
| 7. go unchallenged | g. their normal size |
| 8. They are all very | h. inhumane practice |
| 9. understand the process | i. much as \$125 |
| 10. One liver can retail for as | j. of haute cuisine |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about foie gras?
- What is your favourite cuisine and why?
- What are the best things about your country's cuisine?
- Do you think New York is right to impose the ban?
- Have you ever foie gras?
- Who would suffer if foie gras was banned?
- Would you be a good chef?
- Is force-feeding animals cruel and inhumane?

Spelling

- a ppdooser ban on foie gras
- the pcayelits food
- slnonuuyami voted
- ban sales of the lvcniaseortor food
- retail food tebminetlsassh
- a really cruel and nhimneua practice
- Farmers are considering uigns New York City
- this trroscntiie on New Yorkers
- from a food ruaftcarmnu
- They are all very nisncede
- uonclic member
- all have seurdfe to visit the farms

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. i	7. d	8. a	9. g	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Italian

You think Italian is the world's best cuisine. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cuisine. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): Japanese, American or Indian.

Role B – Japanese

You think Japanese is the world's best cuisine. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cuisine. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): Italian, American or Indian.

Role C – American

You think American is the world's best cuisine. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cuisine. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): Japanese, Italian or Indian.

Role D – Indian

You think Indian is the world's best cuisine. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their cuisine. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): Japanese, American or Italian.

Speaking – Cuisine

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| • Indian | • French |
| • Chinese | • Italian |
| • American | • Japanese |
| • Mexican | • Lebanese |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.