



THE BEST MEALS OF 2013

Food Writers and Experts on Their Best Meals of 2013

Adrian Moore, Paris-based food writer and Mandarin Oriental concierge:

I tend to shy away from doing Best Of lists myself, but when I do, I like to promote exceptional places that may have absolutely nothing with what the food fashion is now or following blindly the latest trend. A perfect meal is so much more. Mine took place in the Himalayan foothills in the Mae Sa Valley outside of Chiang Mai at a private resort called *Howie's Homestay*.

Howie's is a unique kind of place, just 30 minutes from the airport, easy to reach yet completely isolated, surrounded only by water buffalo and local villagers. Regulars who come to Howie's like to keep it secret, and with good reason. To make a long story short, the owner, *Howard Feldman*, dropped out of a profitable business and took years to create the ultimate private home, which in turn became the ultimate private resort. The cook, his wife Jerri, an accomplished Salsa dancer and charming conversationalist, created a feast of Chiang Mai specialties seemingly without end: red, green, and yellow curries, crab omelet, roast pork and chicken, salads, soups, a rarified best of some of the best street food in the world. No subtitles, and it's all love and friendliness.