

what's it all about, alfie?

London-born actor **ALFRED MOLINA** is as diverse in his culinary experiences as he is in his roles for stage and screen. His résumé includes Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* on Broadway, Diego Rivera in the movie *Frida*, and villain Dr. Octavius in *Spider-Man 2*. Currently, he's making sure justice is served as Deputy D.A. Morales on NBC's *Law & Order: Los Angeles*. As for what's being served up in his own kitchen? The discerning actor shares his favorite food memories from home and abroad.

INTERVIEW BY BEKAH WRIGHT



Is there any particular meal that reminds you of home?

A good old-fashioned English roast dinner. My wife and I use a lot of garlic and rosemary with roast lamb. It has to be New Zealand lamb. The domestic variety is too gamy, in my experience. We always make the gravy from the meat juices, add Sherry, and thicken it with a pinch of cornmeal. On the side—roasted potatoes, sweet potatoes, and any root veggies available. And the best place for a roast dinner? Always your own home.

Seeing that you're from London, is tea a daily ritual for you?

We love the afternoon cup of tea. I sometimes play around with leaf teas and make up different blends. One favorite is a blend of English Breakfast,

Earl Grey, and a little orange pekoe. It makes a very dark, strong tea, and the Earl Grey's nice aroma lifts the taste.

Do you have a signature recipe you like to make at home?

Grilled chicken with roasted vegetables. I marinate the chicken, and the vegetables are cut small, so they caramelize more quickly. When they're in season, lots of carrots and beets and brussels sprouts. Simple and delicious.

After being away, is there a food you make a beeline for at home?

When I get home after being away for work, my wife always stuffs the fridge with loads of what she calls *nibbles*—all the great things you can eat straight from the fridge, like chunks of cheese, slices of

ham, bowls of hummus. I usually stand there, suitcase by my feet, overcoat still on, helping myself from the top shelf...you get the picture.

Any other fridge mainstays that you always have handy?

Soy milk, lots of different mustards, Italian ham.

Tell us about your most memorable meal.

Eating cheese, almonds, and olives with my mother and her brothers. I was six or seven, and we were in my mother's village in Italy, under a tree. It was hot, and my uncle Mario let me sit on his motorbike.

What's your drink of choice?

Red wine, if I'm not driving. We've always enjoyed Italian reds, the big reds from the

north—Barolo, Dolcetto, Nebbiolo. I suppose it's because they're the wines I grew up with.

What is the most unusual thing you've ever eaten?

In North Africa, roasted lamb covered with sugar. The sugar turned into a crusty glaze.

Name your favorite restaurant.

La Dolce Vita in Beverly Hills. I always have the roasted red peppers and anchovies.

Where did you have your most romantic meal?

In Rome, with my wife, eating in a garden surrounded by night-blooming jasmine. My wife has an allergy to gluten, but that night she allowed herself a plate of the best angel hair pasta. Now, that's romance! ■

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