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# Oishinbo: À La Carte, Vol. 7: Izakaya - Pub Food



## Synopsis

A quest for the ultimate menu! A quest for the ultimate menu! R to L (Japanese Style). "Izakaya--Pub Food" Izakaya occupy the same vital space in the Japanese culinary landscape as tapas bars in Spain or tavernas in Greece. Unpretentious, frequently boisterous, they're places to meet with friends or business partners to unwind over drinks and small dishes that range from hearty standards to refined innovations. In this volume of *Oishinbo*, Yamaoka and Kurita investigate classic izakaya foods such as edamame and yakitori, devise new dishes to add to the menu of an old shop, and discover how the concept of "play" is essential to the enjoyment of food. As part of the celebrations for its 100th anniversary, the publishers of the *TMzai* News have commissioned the creation of the "Ultimate Menu," a model meal embodying the pinnacle of Japanese cuisine. This all-important task has been entrusted to journalist Yamaoka ShirM, an inveterate cynic who possesses no initiative--but also an incredibly refined palate and an encyclopedic knowledge of food. Each volume of *Oishinbo* follows Yamaoka and his colleagues through another adventure on their quest for the Ultimate Menu. Now, the highlights from the hundred-plus volume series have been selected and compiled into *A la Carte* editions: bite-sized chunks of story arranged by subject that add up to a full-course manga meal!

## Book Information

Paperback: 276 pages

Publisher: VIZ Media LLC (January 19, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1421521458

ISBN-13: 978-1421521459

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.9 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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#1960 inÂ  Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels

## Customer Reviews

There are two issues to address here: "*Oishinbo*" the series, and "*Oishinbo*" as released by Viz Signature. I love the one, but am disappointed with the other. "*Oishinbo*" (Translating directly as "Delicious Boy") is a long running (over 100 volumes) and super-popular Japanese comic that deals

with Japanese cooking and journalist Yamaoka Shiro's quest for "The Ultimate Menu." The series delves deeply into Japanese cuisine, and has been adapted into animation and a live-action TV show. Perhaps daunted by the length of the series, Viz Signature has released what they call "Oishinbo A La Carte" where they take chunks of stories from the comic and group them thematically. This particular volume is based around a unique form of Japanese pub grub restaurants called Izakaya. Literally translating as "Drink-Eat Shops," izakayas are usually small little local joints where you can stop by at any time and expect to get drinks, small bits of unpretentious food, and conversation at a cheap price. I love izakayas, and cooked at one for a short while when I lived in Japan. They are probably what I miss most about the country. "Oishinbo: Izakaya Pub Food" does a great job at getting across the spirit of the izakaya, and of some of the dishes you might find there. In typical "Oishinbo"-fashion, Yamaoka's izakayas are far off the beaten path, serving delicacies like black edamame from Tanba, chicken skin hot pot, and four-hour boiled potatoes. All of the recipes look fantastic--some of them fantastic in the literal sense.

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