

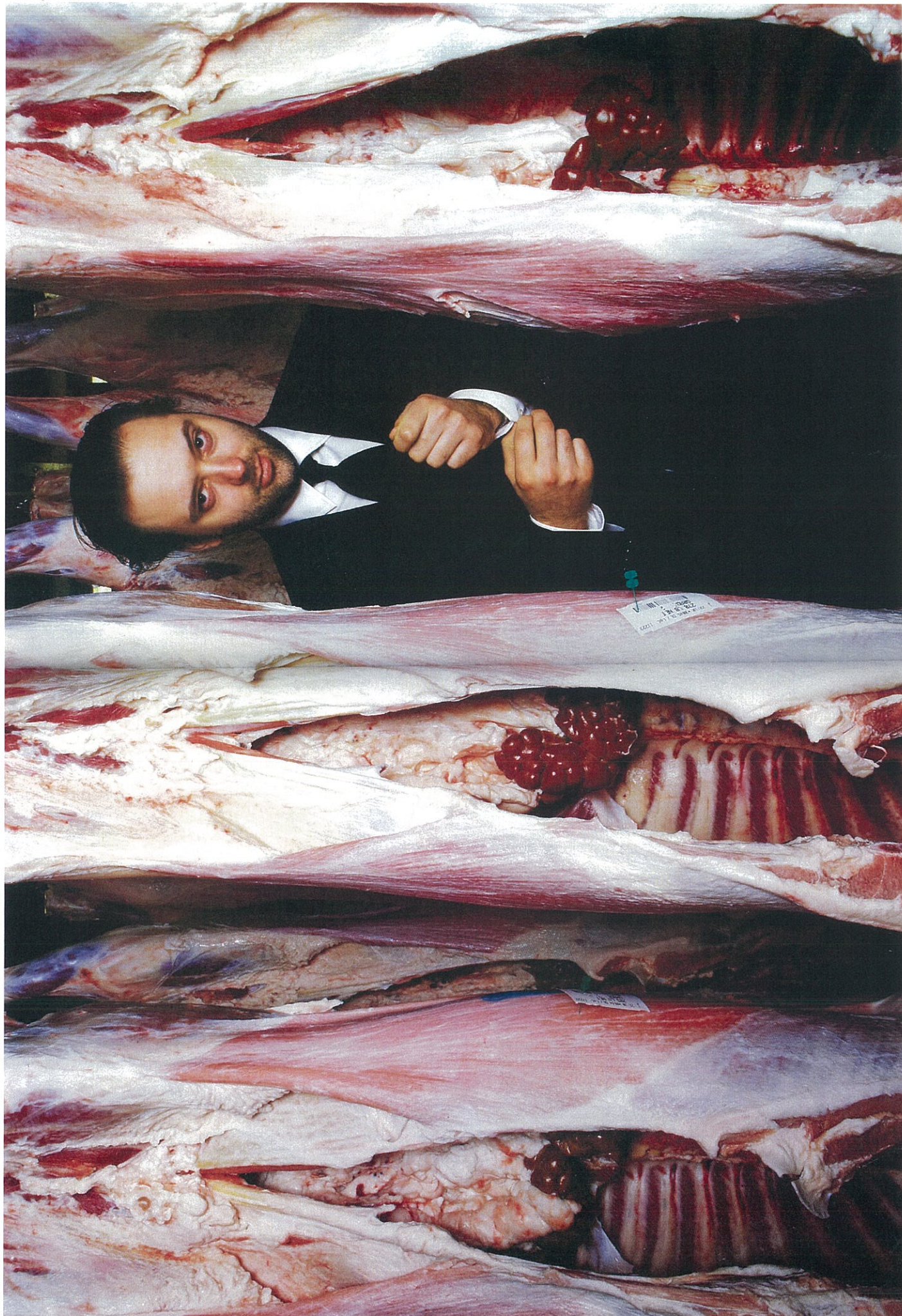
MY LAST SUPPER THE NEXT COURSE

50 More Great Chefs and Their Final Meals
Portraits, Interviews, and Recipes

A chef with dark, curly hair, wearing a white chef's coat and a white apron with dark suspenders, holds a large, round, heavily textured loaf of bread in front of their face. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights the texture of the bread and the chef's clothing.

MELANIE DUNEA

INTRODUCTION BY
MARCO PIERRE WHITE



PAUL LIEBRANDT



What would be your last meal on Earth?

It changes from minute to minute. Today I fancy this, tomorrow that—there isn't one particular thing that I'm like, yep, that would be it. Today it would be a royal Thai banquet. But tomorrow it could be like a kai sake tasting. Or it could be, ya know, like an Indian banquet. I think probably it would have to be something more ethnic. It wouldn't be English food, although I did grow up with that as a kid (beans on toast, Marmite sandwiches).

If I had a royal Thai banquet, there would be beautiful freshwater shrimp and minced pork cooked with fresh mint and then packed together cold and wrapped in a spring roll paper and flash fried so they were really, really crispy. They'd be served with like a sweet and sour sauce, but very spicy. The mint and the pork are just very simple but, wow, amazing.

Obviously pad Thai, a classic, but done really well. A really good pad Thai is amazing. What else? Mango sticky rice. A dish with crab . . . a big saltwater crab baked with fried glass noodles and chiles and limes, and all the flavor from the crab broth cooks in there, and you eat the crab and the glass noodles and it's amazing. Also, freshwater shrimp satay with fresh kambava grated over the top and dried kaffir leaves.

What would be the setting for the meal?

So we're eating our royal Thai banquet, drinking our 1962 Billecart-Salmon, our 1923 Pol Roger-Grauves, drinking from our Holy Grail, and you know where? We are orbiting Earth. Because it's somewhere I'll never go. I love to travel, but it's one place I'll never go. So it would be orbiting Earth, looking down at Earth while eating and just kind of thinking, wow, we're kind of small in the whole grand scheme of things really, aren't we? Looking out into space—we're just there. We're floating, we're watching Earth, we're looking at the cosmos, looking at the rest of the universe, our universe and beyond. We can travel everywhere, but how many of us are actually gonna travel into space?

What would you drink with your meal?

This could be anything? It would have to be—what is the greatest champagne ever?—a '62 Billecart-Salmon or 1923 Pol Roger-Grauves. One of those two, and two goblets of it. And it would have to be the Holy Grail that I was drinking from. Yeah, a bottle of one of those each, drunk from the Holy Grail.

Would there be music?

Of course. We would probably have something by the Cure playing, because I'm British. They would be playing, just off to the side. Robert Smith would be doing something, like a version of "A Forest."

Who would be your dining companions?

My wife. My dog would be hopping around. I think I'd like a peaceful moment like that. The people and things that bring joy.

Who would prepare the meal?

Dead or alive? If I say something like William the Conqueror, it's so esoteric; it doesn't mean anything to anybody. It's like, "Who?" It would have to be William the Conqueror, William of Normandy, who led the Norman invasion of 1066; before that, England was small tribes. He was the first person ever to invade England. The Romans invaded later, but he was the first. And it's because he changed the course of that country forever. Because everyone who lived in England was ruled by the French. It's a very important thing, the Battle of 1066. I love history; I'm a history buff. He defeated King Harold. He changed the course of history forever. Would he cook it? No, he's French and from Normandy—what the hell does he know about Thai food? I just would like him to be there, to, like, do his thing.

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TOMORROW THAT.”