



## **Asian Dumplings**

*Andrea Nguyen*

*Ten Speed, \$30, 234 pages*

**In a nutshell:** An essential book for any Asian food junkie, featuring all manner of tasty tidbits wrapped in tender dough. We'll be surprised if this isn't nominated for a James Beard award next year.

**Take a taste:** Tibetan Beef and Sichuan Peppercorn Dumplings; Sticky Rice and Spiced Chicken in Banana Leaf; Shanghai Pork, Bamboo and Mushroom Spring Rolls; Spiced Pineapple-Filled Pastries

**What's hot:** You'll actually be able to find the ingredients that Nguyen uses (unlike with many other authentic ethnic cookbooks). She clearly explains techniques for shaping the many kinds of dumplings – with the help of illustrations – and provides recipes for making the different kinds of wrappers and doughs. We also love Penny De Los Santos' incredibly elegant and evocative photographs.

**What's not:** The dessert chapter. To my Western palate, Asian confections like Banana and Coconut Sticky Rice Packets simply aren't rich enough or sweet enough. My bad.

– *Katherine Miller*

