

Client: Black Cat PR
Source: Caterer & Hotelkeeper (Main)
Date: 19 June 2008
Page: 12
Circulation: 18807
Area(cm²): 189

Book Review

Reminiscences from a 'people' industry

A Solitary Confinement

Robin Sheppard
Ecademy Press, £10.99
ISBN 978-1-905823-25-3

Inn Keeping with Mr Fawcety

Andy Hageman
Four Leaf Clover, £11.95
ISBN 0-9458883-7-5

Eating Famously

Elena Salvoni (with Chris Wright, Mike Maloney, William Hall)
Walnut West One, £29.40
ISBN 978-0-9556171-0-2

The hospitality industry is always alive with good stories and anecdotes - it is a "people" industry, after all - but often those reminiscences remain tales passed down by word of mouth. Sometimes, however, pen is put to paper and experiences are shared with a wider audience. This is the case with the three books featured this week.

Actually, Robin Sheppard's book doesn't really deal with his heyday as a hotelier in the 1990s - he set up the Bristol Hotel Group, and was also the GM of the Bath Spa hotel back in its Forte days. Instead, it tells the story of the last few years of his life since he was first struck down with Guillain-Barré disease, a debilitating immune syndrome



A SOLITARY CONFINEMENT
BY
ROBIN SHEPPARD
*Specialized, for health in - human life, which is a complex program
and can vary in nature. *Specialized, for the

illness that left him, initially, paralysed from the neck down.

The book is rambling in parts, but honestly portrays the emotions of dealing with serious illness: the frustrations, the anger, even the funny things that arise daily. If you knew Sheppard, but have lost touch in the last half-decade, this will bring you up to date with his life. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to a Guillain-Barré charity.

Another hotelier, Andy Hageman, has recorded the trials and tribulations of running a hotel in Dorset - Mortons House in Corfe Castle. Experiences he relates include dealing with practical-joking friends, sorting out difficult guests and appearing on *Ready Steady Cook*.

If you're looking for industry tales with glitz, then have a flick through *Eating Famously*, in which legendary maitre d' and Catey winner Elena Salvoni matches anecdotes about celebrities such as Catherine Zeta-Jones, Ralph Fiennes, Sting and John Lennon with appropriate dishes.

Salvoni has had a long career at some of London's most iconic restaurants. It's a bit of fun, aimed at the non-industry market, but treat it as a more substantial *Hello!* and you'll probably enjoy it.