

Reading and Talking

The best garlic dish in the world?

Georgia is a country in Eurasia, and visitors say that it has beautiful mountains and delicious food. Last winter, Matsuya, the gyudon beef bowl chain, served chkmeruli, a creamy stew from Georgia that is made with cheese, chicken, and garlic. Some people say that chkmeruli is the best garlic dish in the world. On December 1st, Nagatanien introduced Chkmeruli Soup in a cup. It is made with cheese, roasted garlic powder and ground chicken. Just pour hot water into the cup. Chkmeruli Soup has 48 kcal., and it costs 137 yen at convenience stores.

(104 words)

Have you ever heard of Georgian chkmeruli cheese, chicken and garlic stew?

↳ Yes, I have. (--Where did you hear about it? / Did you try Matsuya's chkmeruli last winter? / Have you ever been to Georgia?)

↳ No, I haven't. (--Do you like cheese? / What do you think about food with cheese and garlic? / Do you know someone who has been to Georgia?)

Do you know someone who doesn't like garlic?

↳ Yes, I do. (--Who is it? / Do you like garlic? / Have you ever eaten al ajillo?)

↳ No, I don't. (--Do you like pepperoncini hot chili peppers? / Have you had garlic toast recently? / Have you ever had "samugetan" ginseng chicken soup?)

If you feel hungry in the afternoon, what do you do?

↳ I have [a rice ball / a sandwich / some chips / an energy gel / XXX]. / I just stand it. (--Do you have three meals a day? / What time do you have dinner? / Are you good at cooking?)

↳ It depends. (--Do you usually carry a snack in your bag or backpack? / Do you skip breakfast? / Does your stomach rumble when you're hungry?)

(4 December, 2020)

More Information

The best garlic dish in the world?

Georgia is a country in Eurasia. It is surrounded by Russia to the north, Azerbaijan to the east, Armenia and Turkey to the south, and the Black Sea to the west. Georgia is almost 8,000 kilometers from Japan, and it is on the same latitude as the Tohoku region. The best seasons to visit are spring and autumn, and visitors talk of the beautiful mountains and delicious food.

At the end of last year, a Georgian dish became known here when gyudon beef bowl chain Matsuya offered chkmeruli, a traditional rich creamy stew. To be called chkmeruli, the dish must have cheese, chicken, and garlic, and some people say that it's the best garlic dish in the whole world.

On December 1, Nagatanien, the food company, launched instant Chkmeruli Soup. It uses three kinds of cheese together with roasted garlic powder and ground chicken. All you have to do is add hot water. The cup, which is small enough to hold in one hand, has a plastic lid with a slit to sip from. Chkmeruli Soup has 48 kcal., and it is ¥137 at convenience stores.

(195 words)

(4 December, 2020)

Reading and Talking

Super Nintendo World at USJ

Universal Studios Japan was going to open a "Super Nintendo World" area in the park last summer. Covid-19 stopped that plan, but on November 30th, USJ said that Super Nintendo World is going to open on February 4th, 2021. The main attraction is a "Koopa's Challenge" ride. Koopa's Challenge is like Nintendo's Mario Kart video games. Four players sit in a kart, and everyone wears augmented reality (AR) glasses. The karts run on rails, but the AR puts you in a virtual world. Like the video games, you throw shells to win or lose the challenge.

(104 words)

Do you want to go to Super Nintendo World at USJ next year?

↳ Yes, I do. (--Do you think it's going to be very popular? / Do you want to go there in February or later? / Do you want to ride "Koopa's Challenge"?)

↳ No, I don't. (--Do you like amusement parks and theme parks? / Have you ever tried an AR headset? / Have you ever seen a projection mapping show?)

Have you ever been to USJ?

↳ Yes, I have. (--Who did you go with? / What was the best ride there? / Did you eat anything there?)

↳ No, I haven't. (--Do you want to go to USJ? / Have you ever been to a theme park alone? / Do you know someone who has an annual pass for Tokyo Disney Resort?)

Have you ever played a Mario Kart video game?

↳ Yes, I have. (--Which game console did you play it on? / Are you good at playing it? / What's your favorite video game?)

↳ No, I haven't. (--Have you ever played Super Mario Brothers? / Do you like playing video games? / Do you have a Nintendo Switch?)

(4 December, 2020)

More Information

Super Nintendo World at USJ

Universal Studios Japan was going to debut a "Super Nintendo World" area in the park last summer ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Like the Olympics, the plan fell victim to Covid-19. On November 30, USJ announced that Super Nintendo World would finally open on February 4, 2021, and the main attraction would be a "Koopa's Challenge" ride inside Koopa's Castle (Bowser's Castle in English).

Koopa's Challenge is based on Nintendo's Mario Kart video games. Each kart holds four people, and everyone wears Super Mario headgear that includes augmented reality (AR) glasses. Although the Super Nintendo World karts run on rails, the AR, together with projection mapping, immerses players in a computer-generated virtual world. The ride replicates elements of the video game, such as throwing shells, and it is the skill of the players that determines whether you win or lose the challenge.

Koopa's Challenge is one of several attractions in Super Nintendo World, which is the result of a six-year collaboration with the creative team at Nintendo. Last October, a Mario-themed cafe and store opened inside USJ as a taste of what is to come.

(193 words)

(4 December, 2020)