

The States Collection – West Virginia – Smothering Ramps

Cast: 2 female

Marisu (18-22) female; devoted to wild ramps

Ashley (18-22) female; Marisu's NYC cousin

PLACE: West Virginia

TIME: April

SYNOPSIS: Wild ramps cover West Virginia in the April and the population goes hog-wild

TAGS: food, ramps, West Virginia, smothering vegetables

(Lights up on MARISU'S kitchen. There are baskets everywhere – filled with ramps (need not show them) and the table is set for two.

ASHLEY

Thanks for letting me visit during ramp season. I always wanted to see how you found them. Did you have a secret place? The family looks forward to your “ramp care package” every April.

MARISU

Now that you know they grow everywhere – and I mean everywhere, maybe it's not as mysterious.

ASHLEY

We always love making them as a side dish. We'd marinate them in a delicate vinaigrette and serve them with a poached chicken breast.

MARISU

Sounds... healthy.

ASHLEY

Sometimes when we were adventurous we'd make a ramp pesto and serve it ... with a poached...

ASHLEY and MARISU

... chicken breast.

ASHLEY

I can't wait to see how you use ramps.

MARISU

Don't go looking for any poached chicken breast here. This here is a West Virginia dish.

ASHLEY

You know, chefs in New York City would pay a pretty penny for these ramps. All you'd need to do is collect them for a month and have them shipped to the restaurants.

MARISU

I love you, cousin. I really do. But sometimes you need to stop thinking like a New Yorker. Don't devise ways to make money when nature gives you a gift. Just say thank-you and cook 'em up. And here we are –

ASHLEY

Wow. Fried.

MARISU

Smothered actually in bacon grease. Then covered with a thick slab of bacon and a smattering of beans. Dig in.

ASHLEY

It's ... it's ... so ...

MARISU

Not healthy?

ASHLEY

Delicious.

MARISU

I knew you'd find your southern gene. Enjoy!

(And they do as the lights go down.)

END OF PLAY