

**35 minutter  
i selskab med  
Alsie Express og...**

# Jesper Koch & Jesper Kock

- og smagen af Sønderjylland

**De to kokke Jesper Koch og Jesper Kock har meget tilfælles. Det er ikke kun navnet eller det pudslige sammentræf mellem navn og profession. De er også begge vokset op med det særlige sønderjyske egnskøkken, som i dag er en kæmpe drivkraft og inspiration for dem. Vi har sat de to sønderjyske kokke i stævne for at blive klogere på den regionale egnsgastronomi.**

I det meste af Danmark spiser vi efterhånden det samme, og der er ikke mange afvigelser i spisevanerne. Men i Sønderjylland er den unikke egnsgastronomi blandt de absolut bedst bevarede.

– Det skyldes først og fremmest vores helt særlige historie og kulturmødet mellem Danmark og Tyskland. Især har de 56 år fra 1864 til 1920, hvor Sønderjylland var tysk, spillet en afgørende rolle, fortæller Jesper Kock, der driver Det Sønderjyske Køkken i Sønderborg.

I denne periode værnede de dansk-sindede indbyggere om deres traditioner, ikke mindst i køkkenet - men samtidig kunne det ikke undgås, at det tyske køkken gav fornyet inspiration. F.eks. slog tyske slagtere sig ned i området. Med sig havde de stolte traditioner for pølser og røgværter, som lokalbefolkningen snart tog til sig.

Den dag i dag spiller det røgede kød en væsentlig rolle i det sønderjyske køkken. Kulturmødet med Tyskland afspejler sig også i kombinationen af det sure og det søde smagselement i bl.a.

sønderjyske supper og kålretter. Andre sønderjyske retter med det sure tyske præg er f.eks. surrib, sursteg og surkål.

– Man skal til Europas andre grænse-lande som f.eks. Alsace og Basker-



Jesper Kock med k er fra Sønderborg og valgte sideløbende med universitetsstuderne at uddanne sig til kok. Han er udlært fra Hotel Baltic i Hørup Havn og Restaurant Bind i Sønderhav og rejste efter endt uddannelse over grænsen for at arbejde i den tostjernede Michelin-restaurant Meierei på Alter Meierhof. Herefter gik turen til Skærtoft Mølle som huskok og underviser, før han først grundlagde Jespers Kokerier og samtidig underviste for Københavns Madhus – og siden Det Sønderjyske Køkken.

Den anerkendte kok og Masterchef-dommer Jesper Koch med ch er oprindeligt fra Aabenraa. Han er netop flyttet med familien fra Århus til Sønderborg, hvor han står i spidsen for hotel Alsiks tre restauranter. For Jesper blev selvstændig med Brdr. Koch, Kocherier og Det Glade Vanvid, har han været på en perlerække af restauranter i ind- og udland, herunder sønderjyske Fakkelgaarden og Christies samt flere to- og trestjernede Michelin-restauranter.

## Man skal til Alsace og Baskerlandet for at finde et ligeså rigt og velbevaret egnskøkken

landet for at finde et så rigt, varieret og velbevaret egnskøkken, som vi har i Sønderjylland. Selvfølgelig er der også egnssretter andre steder, men slet ikke i samme omfang som her, siger Jesper Kock.

For Jesper og hans team i Det Sønderjyske Køkken er det afgørende at holde fast i den sønderjyske fødevare-kultur. Derfor er der ikke blot sønderjyske egnssretter på menukortet, men der undervises også i bl.a. gamle håndværkstraditioner og sønderjysk kogekunst i det store undervisnings-køkken midt på gågaden i Sønderborg.

## Vi kan noget særligt

Også for Jesper Koch på hotel Alsik er det lokale sønderjyske køkken en stor inspiration. Både i gourmetrestauranten Syttende og den klassiske spisestue Freia bliver livsnervene de lokale råvarer og områdets stolte håndværkstraditioner.

– I Sønderjylland har vi på den ene side enormt stærke håndværkstraditioner for bl.a. pølser og bagværk, og på den anden side er vi dybt påvirkede af vores gode råvarer. På begge områder kan vi noget ganske særligt i Sønderjylland, og det skal vi være stolte af.

(Læs videre nedenfor)



## Kokkenes egnsfavoritter

Jeg tror ikke, det er tilfældigt, at så mange af landets bedste kokke på den ene eller anden måde har rødder i det sønderjyske. Tænk bare på Erwin Lauterbach, Thomas Rode, Mark Lundgaard, Thomas Herman og Jens Peter Kolbeck for blot at nævne nogle få, siger Jesper Koch, og fortsætter:

– Samtidig byder den sønderjyske natur på et overflødighedshorn af førsteklasses råvarer, der ikke kan undgå at inspirere og påvirke. Vi er faktisk selvforsynende med råvarer af

absolut højeste kvalitet, uanset om vi taler fisk, marsklam, vildt, mel, bær, frugt, nødder, havtorn, ramsløg og meget, meget mere.

Aabenraa. Fra Flensborg fjord gik rejserne med tegl fra områdets store teglværker til hele Østersø-området,

Norge, England og Vestindien. De lokale søfolk tog både krydderier og inspiration med hjem til Sønderjylland,

og det har i høj grad sat sit præg på den sønderjyske fødevarekultur.

– Derfor har vi i Sønderjylland tradition for at bruge krydderier som f.eks. muskat, spidskommen, karry og safran i langt større udstrækning end i andre danske områder. På samme måde er det let at genkende de britiske træk i en egnssret som f.eks. Ejrisju, der er sønderjysk for Irish Stew, forklarer Jesper Koch.

**Rom og krydderier via vandvejen fra Vestindien**

## Vi er selv-forsynende med råvarer af absolut højeste kvalitet

Det er den store variation i natur og landskabstyper i Sønderjylland, der har skabt de ideelle betingelser for udviklingen af et varieret egnskøkken med mange sæsonbestemte smags-levelser.

## Fra hele verden

Det er dog ikke alle råvarer, der er lokale, for Tyskland er langt fra det eneste land, der har påvirket det sønderjyske egnskøkken. I 1700- og 1800-tallet udgik der utallige langfarter til Kinas kyst fra søfartsbyen

– Rom er stadig en vigtig ingrediens i det sønderjyske køkken, hvor f.eks. romfromage, romgrog og rompot fortsat er en del af repertoaret. På Alsik hylder vi traditionen, da vores bar er specialiseret i rom og har over 200 forskellige slags. Så mon ikke, jeg også får lov til at bruge lidt i køkkenet?, slutter Jesper Koch.

## Ta' indstikket med hjem, og

## vind et ophold på Alsik

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På Alsie Express vegne ønsker jeg dig fortsat god rejse, Lone M. Koch, adm. dir.

**alsieexpress**

**35 minutes  
in the company of  
Alsie Express and...**

# Jesper Koch & Jesper Kock

– and the taste of South Jutland

The two chefs Jesper Koch and Jesper Kock have a lot in common, besides having similar names reminiscent of the Danish word “kok” meaning “cook” or “chef”. Both of them also grew up with the unique regional cuisine of South Jutland, which is now a hugely motivating force and source of inspiration for them. We arranged to meet these two chefs from South Jutland to learn more about this regional gastronomy.

Most Danes' eating habits have become more or less the same, with little variety. By contrast, the unique culinary heritage of South Jutland is one of the best preserved in Denmark.

"This is primarily due to our unique history with its intermingling of Danish and German culture. This was particularly true during the 56 years when South Jutland was part of Germany, from 1864 to 1920," explains Jesper Kock, who runs Det Sønderjyske Køkken in Sønderborg.

In these years, people with Danish sympathies upheld their traditions, not least in the kitchen, but German cuisine inevitably became a source of renewed inspiration at the same time, exemplified by German butchers who settled in the area and brought proud traditions for sausages and smoked meats, soon embraced by the local populace. To this day, smoked meat is an essential element of South Jutland cuisine. The intermingling with German culture is seen in the sweet and sour flavours in South Jutland soups, cabbage dishes, etc. Other dishes influenced by Germany are marinated spare ribs,

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"Only European borderlands such as Alsace and the Basque country can boast a regional cuisine that is as abundant, varied and well-preserved



Jesper Kock (with a "k") comes from Sønderborg and chose to become a qualified cook concurrent with his university studies. He became a qualified cook at Hotel Baltic in Høruphav and Restaurant Bind in Sønderhav, after which he moved across the border to work at Meierei, a Michelin two-star restaurant in Alter Meierhof. After this, he went to Skærtøft Mølle as in-house chef and teacher before first founding Jespers Køkken and teaching for the Copenhagen House of Food at the same time – followed by Det Sønderjyske Køkken.

a regional cuisine as abundant, varied and well-preserved as ours here in South Jutland. Regional dishes exist elsewhere in Denmark, but nowhere near to the same extent as here," Jesper Kock says.

Upholding the food culture of South Jutland is crucial for Jesper and his team at Det Sønderjyske Køkken. Therefore, besides the regional South Jutland dishes on the menu, the café also hosts classes in old craftsmanship traditions, South Jutland cookery, etc., at a large classroom kitchen in the middle of Sønderborg's pedestrian street.

The acclaimed chef and Master-chef judge Jesper Koch (with "ch") originally comes from Aabenraa. He and his family have just moved from Aarhus to Sønderborg where he is in charge of Hotel Alsik's three restaurants. Before Jesper went into business for himself with Brdr. Koch, Kocherier and Det Glade Vanvid, he had worked at an impressive array of restaurants in Denmark and abroad, including South Jutland's Fakkelgaarden and Christies, as well as a number of Michelin two-star and three-star restaurants.

## Unusually blessed

Jesper Koch, Hotel Alsik, is also profoundly inspired by the local South Jutland cuisine. Local produce and proud culinary traditions are essential features of both Syttende (gourmet restaurant) and Freia (classic restaurant).

"On the one hand, we have a robust culinary tradition for making sausages, baked goods, etc., in South Jutland, and on the other, we are deeply influenced by our quality produce. We are unusually blessed in both areas, which we should be proud of.

(Read more below.)



## Regional favourites of the two chefs



Both Jesper Kock and Jesper Koch have their own favourite regional dish, which in their view characterises the unique cuisine of South Jutland:

**Jesper Kock's favourite dish is the regional dish Snysk:**

"Snysk reminds me of summer days spent with my grandmother where the whole family was gathered. Snysk is made of the summer's first fresh beans, green peas, carrots and potatoes. In my family, it must be served with smoked pork. The scalloped vegetable dish embodies the South Jutland tradition for quality, fresh produce and the cultural intermingling with German cuisine. There is no standard recipe for snysk, or any other regional dish of South Jutland, for that matter: the 'right' recipe is one that was handed down from your mother."

**Jesper Koch's favourite dish is Skrædderduels:**

"Skrædderduels is a dish that is both fantastic in all its simplicity, but which can also be quickly transformed into a fine dining experience by serving it with caviar, truffles or double cream, and it is perfect if served with smoked bacon."

"Skrædderduels means tailor and duels is the word for sauce or dip in the old South Jutland dialect. Skrædderduels was also called 'poor man's sauce' because a tailor was often a poor, scorned person who had to sit indoors sewing with the ladies."

Rum remains an important ingredient in South Jutland cuisine, where rum mousse, grog and rum pot are still included. We celebrate this tradition at Alsik, as our bar specialises in rum and has more than 200 different varieties. So I'm sure to use it in the kitchen, too!" Jesper Koch concludes.

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### Rum and spices by sea from the West Indies

Many recipes in old South Jutland cookery books include rum as an ingredient. This is because Flensburg was not only the second largest city in Denmark, but an important trade centre in the 18th century. Sugarcane from the Danish Virgin Islands was unloaded here and processed into sugar at local sugar refineries. Rum was an important by-product – and rapidly became a huge success.

### South Jutland rum

Not all produce is local, however, because Germany is far from the only country to have influenced the South Jutland cuisine. In the 18th and 19th centuries, countless voyages departed for China from Aabenraa. Bricks

from South Jutland's brickworks were shipped from Flensburg Fjord to destinations in the Baltic Sea region, Norway, the British Isles and the West Indies. Local mariners brought back

spices and inspiration, which have profoundly influenced the food culture of South Jutland.

"It's no coincidence that many of Denmark's best chefs trace their origins to South Jutland in one way or another, such as Erwin Lauterbach, Thomas Rode, Mark Lundgaard, Thomas Herman and Jens Peter Kolbeck, to name a few," Jesper Koch says, continuing:

"At the same time, the South Jutland countryside grows a cornucopia of first-class produce which cannot help but inspire and influence. We are actually self-sufficient in top-quality produce, such as fish, Wadden Sea lamb, game, flour, berries, fruit, nuts, sea buckthorn, wild garlic and much more."

The widely varying countryside and landscapes of South Jutland provide ideal conditions for developing a varied regional cuisine with a wide variety of seasonal taste experiences.

### From all over the world

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