



Off Menu – Ep 228 – Ray Winstone

Ed Gamble

Welcome to the Off Menu podcast, taking the cherries of fun, putting those in the fruit salad, and that's the fruit salad then. Now, you think I've already don't that, right?

James Acaster

I think you've already said that's the fruit salad, and it's finished.

Ed Gamble

I'll be honest with you guys, I don't know what's come out yet already, but I've been doing this thing where I build a fruit salad across the episodes. James loves it because I immediately lost track of what I'd said and what I hadn't. I don't know how many things are in the fruit salad, or that is the end of the fruit salad now definitely.

James Acaster

I think there are at least five, maybe as many as eight.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but if you put together a list of fruits and say that that's in the fruit salad, we don't know if that is the fruit salad.

James Acaster

It's Benito's job to know.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it is Benito's job to know but he's already told me he's got a tab on his spreadsheet called 'fruit salad', and by no means are they all in there.

James Acaster

Yes, well, that's poor form because a lot of people would have been playing this game at home where they write down everything that's in the fruit salad, then email or they'd tweet Benito to let him know what the fruit salad is, and he'll send them a signed chopping board. If he's going to waste everyone's time, then that's a big shame.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I mean, I've wasted Benito's time and he's wasted their time.

James Acaster

I guess I'm the only good guy in all of this.



Ed Gamble

No, you're not. You're at the side, like, prodding us on and being a little bully.

James Acaster

No, no, not a bully. It's just the whole thing was, you know-, I've encouraged your creativity, and I tried to encourage Benito's productivity, but sadly I failed there.

Ed Gamble

It sums up my creativity that I started doing something half way through, went, 'Oh, I don't know if I've done this properly,' and then just, sort of, given up on it.

James Acaster

Yes. Well, I know there definitely wasn't any cherries in the fruit salad before, so this is the first, so you haven't repeated yourself ingredients-wise. It's just, you know-,

Ed Gamble

How many there are and when.

James Acaster

How many there are, when they're going to come out, and how many times you said, 'That's the last thing in the fruit salad.'

Ed Gamble

If two of them are the last ones, 'And that's the fruit salad.'

James Acaster

Yes, 'And that's the fruit salad,' so we'll see.

Ed Gamble

You don't often see cherries in a fruit salad, do you?

James Acaster

No, not often, but you know, it's not outside the realms of possibility, and I'm pretty sure that No Context Off Menu who is not part of our organisation, but you know, is way more across our podcast than we are, will know what's in the fruit salad exactly, so maybe people should tweet No Context Off Menu and say-,

Ed Gamble

Don't do that to the guy.

James Acaster

Well, I'm just trying to save the fruit salad game.



Ed Gamble

Benito has just told us there will be going episodes going out after this that are fruit salad.

James Acaster

Yes, so that's not the fruit salad.

Ed Gamble

No, it is. It can still be the fruit salad, but then afterwards, just keep an ear out because there might be more, and I don't know when those are coming out.

James Acaster

We don't know, in between those ones will be other things, intros, that are different foods, not in the fruit salad.

Ed Gamble

Not in the fruit salad.

James Acaster

You've really got to have-

Ed Gamble

You can't put a smoked salmon cream cheese bagel in the fruit salad, for example.

James Acaster

No.

Ed Gamble

I think I've done that.

James Acaster

You've got to have, like, faith that you think that's the fruit salad done before you do the tweet, and if you do do it early, that's it. That's your go.

Ed Gamble

You're blocked.

James Acaster

That's one go.

Ed Gamble

We'll block you.

James Acaster

You'd get blocked.



Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

You will get blocked if you guess the fruit salad too early, but then you know, if you leave it too late, someone might get there before you and win the chopping board.

Ed Gamble

Did I put a bit of orange juice in the fruit salad?

James Acaster

I would hope so.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you need a bit of orange juice in it. Benito, check that.

James Acaster

Yes, but I don't know if you definitely did it, you know.

Ed Gamble

Well, I guess fruit salad is a lot like life. You never know when it's over. Is that the phrase?

James Acaster

That is Ed Gamble, my name is James Acaster. Together we are in a dream restaurant, and every single week, we invite in a guest. We ask them their favourite ever starter, main course, dessert, side dish and drink, not in that order, and this week our guests is Ray Winstone.

Ed Gamble

Ray Winstone, an actor with a huge CV, James, so many legendary roles.

James Acaster

A national treasure.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Oh, fully national treasure.

James Acaster

Very excited that we've got Ray in. I mean, you know, I'm both daunted.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

But also excited to, kind of, like, be a bit cheeky. I feel like we can be cheeky with Ray Winstone.



Ed Gamble

I feel like we can be a bit cheeky with Ray Winstone, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, I feel like he's a laugh.

Ed Gamble

He seems like a laugh, but I think are you a bit daunted because he plays a hard man.

James Acaster

He plays a hard man and, like, you know, it's a world that I could never inhabit, those characters and there's something cool about those characters really, no matter how horrible some of them are.

Ed Gamble

Sexy Beast, big favourite of ours.

James Acaster

Love Sexy Beast so much.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Love, Honour and Obey, one of my favourite films.

James Acaster

Love, Honour and Obey, of course. Yes, I mean, it's exciting man. I mean, also, I don't really know, I don't think I have any idea what kind of food Ray Winstone would have. It's very easy to just, kind of, like, guess based on his characters what he would be eating, but an actor is not their character.

Ed Gamble

You're thinking of all, like, the cockney foods.

James Acaster

All the tough guy foods.

Ed Gamble

Yes, but what do tough guys eat?

James Acaster

Red, raw steak.

Ed Gamble

I would think they are the same.

James Acaster

Just a completely blue steak, just eating that.



Ed Gamble

Yes, maybe.

James Acaster

Yes. Bangers and mash.

Ed Gamble

Bangers and mash.

James Acaster

That's a tough guy food.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Bangers and mash isn't tough guy food, man.

James Acaster

No?

Ed Gamble

No, it's too sloppy.

James Acaster

I guess it's more the Beano, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes. Well, they're tough.

James Acaster

Dennis the Menace is tough?

Ed Gamble

Bash Street Kids are tough.

James Acaster

Bash Street Kids are tough?

Ed Gamble

They're horrible.

James Acaster

Not all of them, not horrible.

Ed Gamble

I would have hated to go to Bash Street School.



James Acaster

I'd have lasted two seconds. If I went to Bash Street, I think I'm definitely not making it to the end of my first week there before going home to my mum and dad and saying, 'I can't go back. Please don't make me go back there, and don't bother talking to the teacher. He's got no control of the class, so you can't tell him to protect me.'

Ed Gamble

Which strip in the Beano do you think you'd last the longest?

James Acaster

That's a great question.

Ed Gamble

Not Dennis the Menace?

James Acaster

Not Dennis the Menace. I'd get beat up. I'd get beat up by Dennis the Menace or I'd get beat up my Minnie the Minx. Ivy the Terrible would beat me up. Billy Whizz would be too fast for me, I couldn't keep up with him so I'd be knackered. Calamity James, I mean, I guess you know-,

Ed Gamble

Same name.

James Acaster

Same name, I'm asking for trouble.

Ed Gamble

No, or you'd be friends.

James Acaster

He's very clumsy, and trouble befalls him everywhere. Pianos have fallen on him and stuff, so I think I'd put myself in harms way there.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Billy Whizz, I'd just end up spinning around all the time when he runs past me.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. I'd be sick. The Numskulls, remember that one?

Ed Gamble

Yes, I guess the Numskulls. Yes, they live in people's heads, right?

James Acaster

Tiny people that are in your head, just like Inside Out before Inside Out.



Ed Gamble

Yes, it's a precursor.

James Acaster

Yes. Didn't make you cry though, I don't think, the Numskulls.

Ed Gamble

No, very rarely did anything in The Beano make me cry.

James Acaster

No. They do pathos really, The Beano.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

We know that, you know, one of the artists of The Beano listens to this podcast, so maybe a bit of pathos as a request from us.

Ed Gamble

That would be great, and also, I don't know, you know, we're talking about our era of The Beano. There might be some new Beano characters, we don't know.

James Acaster

Well, I imagine, from what I gather, it has progressed since we-, I remember reading it as a kid and this is when I stopped reading it. I used to read it every week. I'd buy it every week with my pocket money, really excited, loved it when there were sweets free with it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, or a peashooter or something.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, I could fire the sweets into my mouth. Yes.

Ed Gamble

How do you fire something-,

James Acaster

Don't analyse that.

Ed Gamble

Okay.



James Acaster

I remember when I stopped reading it was because, well, when Dennis the Menace, I can't remember why he does it but A) he steals someone's bike. I was like, 'What the hell? That's actual-, that's a crime,' and he's just going down a hill on it, loving it. He's going to get Walter and the other softies, that's his plan.

Ed Gamble

They're not called that anymore. I know that. Walter the Softy is not called Walter the Softy.

James Acaster

That's progress.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's called, like, Walter the Sensitive Lad or something.

James Acaster

That's a bit of a mouthful but it's more respectful, but he's going down a hill on this stolen bicycle to go and get these kids that he calls the softies, so already bad guy, and one of the panels, there's just a pedestrian and Dennis the Menace just pushes him in the face for no reason. His full palm of his hand, he's just laughing, 'Ha ha,' and pushes this guy in the face. I remember being like, 'There's absolute, no need for that,' and I stopped reading The Beano. That was when I stopped doing it. I was like, 'He can't do that.'

Ed Gamble

I love that you had a tipping point.

James Acaster

I was already like, 'Hmm, I'm not sure I'm on board with him stealing that bike,' and then when he pushes the innocent bystander in the face, I was like, 'Do you know what? Fuck this prick.'

Ed Gamble

Yes. I think for me, it was probably when I got, like, pubes, probably when I got a pube, I was like, 'Get rid of The Beano now. I don't need The Beano anymore, I'm a man.'

James Acaster

I was half way through shaving my beard when I saw that, Dennis the Menace pushing a kid in the face. Now, even though we love Ray Winstone, as always, if he says the secret ingredient, an ingredient which we deem to be unacceptable, we will have to kick him out of the dream restaurant, and this week, the secret ingredient is damsons, plums.

Ed Gamble

Damsons, the fruits. Yes, the, sort of, plummy things. I don't really know. I mean, people always make them into jam or vodka.



James Acaster

Yes, I'll give that a swerve, damson jam, for me personally.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's very, sort of, middle Englandy, 'Oh, I've made damson jam.' It's not my sort of thing, but I'll be honest, we've picked it because Ray's in the new film called The Damsel.

James Acaster

Yes, he's in a film called Damsel, so we've just gone damson and made that the secret ingredient. It's out on Netflix, it's coming out. We will ask Ray about it, very good cast, Millie Bobby Brown is in it, Robin Wright is in it, Angela Bassett.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's a huge cast. That's coming out on March 8th on Netflix, and if you like Ray and you like Netflix, you're in for a treat in March, because also coming out in March is The Gentleman, a new show, 8 episodes, Ray's in it, Theo James is in it. It's an insane cast. Shirley Richardson is in it, Vinnie Jones is in it. It's a Guy Richie project, creator, co-writer and executive producer. That, you know what you're going to get there. That's going to be a lot of fun.

James Acaster

I did something recently, there's a character in it called Rich Guysley.

Ed Gamble

Oh, yes?

James Acaster

Yes, who sells hot sauce out of the back of his care.

Ed Gamble

Ghostbusters?

James Acaster

No, my own thing. Springleaf, available on all platforms.

Ed Gamble

Yes, do go and get that.

James Acaster

Wherever you get your podcasts.

Ed Gamble

I'm on tour as well, although I'm going to get Benito to record another special advert for that.



James Acaster

That's fun, that's exciting. I look forward to that.

Ed Gamble

Well, without further ado, this is the Off Menu menu. Oh, shall we put damsons in the fruit salad?

James Acaster

Yes, yes, next time.

Ed Gamble

Okay, this is the Off Menu menu of Ray Winstone.

Welcome, Ray, to the dream restaurant.

Ray Winstone

Thank you very much. I'm looking forward to it.

James Acaster

Welcome Ray Winstone, to the Dream Restaurant. We've been expecting you for some time.

Ray Winstone

Lovely, I'm starving.

James Acaster

Yes? Pretty hungry?

Ray Winstone

Hank Marvin.

James Acaster

Does your personality change when you get hungry?

Ray Winstone

Yes, I think so. You know, like most people I guess, I start to get a headache and then I get a little bit mean, argumentative. Yes. See the face changing then?

James Acaster

Yes, I saw it.

Ray Winstone

I started thinking about it, yes.

Ed Gamble

You went method then.



Ray Winstone

I know, a bit Marlon Brando, wasn't it?

Ed Gamble

That's what he used to do. Well, later on in his career, he was an ever-starving, Marlon Brando?

Ray Winstone

No, he ate a bit too much, didn't he?

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

See, now I don't know what's rhyming slang and what isn't, because you said Hank Marvin and then you said Marlon Brando, I was like, what does that stand for?

Ray Winstone

I have no idea.

James Acaster

Actually, it just meant you were going method.

Ray Winstone

Yes.

James Acaster

I watched a clip of Robin Williams talking about Marlon Brando this morning on my way here in the car, and saying that he went to an acting class that Brando was, like, running.

Ray Winstone

Do you know, I saw Robin Williams on stage when I was a young man, the first time I'd been to America, and I was with Lou Adler who owned the club Whiskey Go Go and all that on the strip, right. I was standing there, I'm meeting him for a movie, and there was this kid. He was doing, not an audition, but he was training, practising on the stage at the Whiskey Go Go and he was phenomenal. I mean, that's a big word for me in order to say that, but he was unbelievable. I said, 'Lou, who's this guy?' He says, 'It's a new guy, Robin Williams,' and he was there, he was climbing up the sides of the walls and all that. So, I actually got to see him before most people did, you know. Yes, incredible, incredible, funny man.

James Acaster

Then, did you-, when you saw him popping up places, were you like, 'That's that guy?'

Ray Winstone

Yes, I know, Mork & Mindy, wasn't it?



Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

Ray Winstone

He came along after that, yes.

James Acaster

I loved Mork & Mindy. Man, I was obsessed with it, the first programme that I loved, like, little kid and just being like, 'What is this?'

Ed Gamble

You're a bit Mork.

James Acaster

Yes, that's who I base my whole personality on.

Ray Winstone

I get it. I get it.

James Acaster

Yes, I still went to, well, when I was a little kid, went to church every Sunday. I don't go anymore. I wouldn't normally point that out but I want Ray to think I'm cool, but we had to go away in Sunday school and write a little profile about ourselves, you know, 'We're the kids of the church.' It was going to go on the wall, and one was who your hero is. All the other kids wrote Jesus. I wrote Robin Williams.

Ray Winstone

Yes, yes. Good choice.

Ed Gamble

Yes, it's either Jesus or Robin Williams, isn't it?

Ray Winstone

Well, it's one or the other.

Ed Gamble

Yes, those are the options. Yes. We've got two things to talk about here, Ray.

Ray Winstone

What's that?

Ed Gamble

You seem to be in charge of Netflix now.



Ray Winstone

Oh, yes, Damsel and The Gentleman. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Damsel and The Gentleman.

James Acaster

I heard you're the keys to the Flix.

Ray Winstone

I just think, yes, it happened that way because, you know, COVID and all of that kind of stuff, and then the strike in America, so these two things, kind of, got drawn together, you know. Very enjoyable jobs, they're not a bad company to work for, you know.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I mean, it seems it. Yes.

Ray Winstone

I mean, you're allowed to get on with it and allowed to do what you want to do, pretty much like you guys in the studio.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Yes. Well, Benito actually keeps us on a very tight leash.

Ray Winstone

He's very quiet, isn't he?

James Acaster

Yes, yes. Exactly.

Ray Winstone

Are you Italian, Mexican? What are you, Benito? A bit Italiano?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ray Winstone

He's like the quiet, silent, cold type.

James Acaster

Yes, he is. Exactly, you've immediately sussed him.



Ray Winstone

We've got him.

Ed Gamble

Tell us a little bit about The Gentleman, so Guy Richie is involved in this.

Ray Winstone

He is, yes, and you know what you're going to get with Guy. I mean, he's stylised, it is what it is. It's action, it's away you go and it's shot beautifully. I saw the first episode the other night, which I'm not in, I might add, but I watched it, and really, really enjoyed it. Yes.

James Acaster

So, it's based on the film?

Ray Winstone

I think so, yes.

James Acaster

You think so. Yes.

Ray Winstone

I don't know. Yes. Actually, I didn't see the film.

James Acaster

Did you not?

Ray Winstone

No, I haven't seen the film.

James Acaster

I saw it on a plane, watched it on a plane.

Ray Winstone

Did you?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ed Gamble

The ultimate compliment.

Ray Winstone

Did they cut all the swearing out on the plane?



James Acaster

Yes, but I put it in myself.

Ray Winstone

You said it yourself, yes?

James Acaster

I said it out loud. Yes. I got taken off the plane.

Ed Gamble

Unfortunately, he put the sex scenes in as well.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ray Winstone

Did you? On the plane?

James Acaster

Yes, I want the authentic experience, Ray. Keep talking about your character in *The Gentleman*.

Ray Winstone

Yes, he's, kind of, like, the boss. You know, he's in charge of the way things go. You find this out as you go along. I don't want to give too much away, but he's the father of the young girl in it, who's absolutely fantastic. I mean, it's a good cast anyway, and he's, kind of, pulling the strings I guess, from inside his prison cell.

Ed Gamble

No one's casting you as anyone but the boss, right? You're the boss.

Ray Winstone

Well, I don't know. It depends who's in the film, isn't it, really. I mean, I'm getting to that age now where I'm not going to be the lead too much, you know, I'm going to be the filling. I'm going to be there, just bringing a bit of, I don't know, gravitas to the event.

Ed Gamble

Yes, is that a nice point to be in your career?

Ray Winstone

I don't mind. I've done it, you know, and there are some great kids out there coming through, some really talented people, so I don't mind, I mean, I've had my bit. I've done it, you know, I've enjoyed it, but I'm still here.



James Acaster

I think I like it when you're not the boss. I like the part in your Sexy Beast.

Ray Winstone

Yes, I want to love, I want to be a lover.

James Acaster

You're not quite the boss in those. There are people-,

Ray Winstone

You have to push it along though. They get on your nerves a little bit. They start fucking about, you know, so you have to keep going and keep going, and pushing it and pushing it, and pushing it, and letting them have it.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and in Damsel, you're a lord. You're Lord Bayford in Damsel.

Ray Winstone

Yes. Again, I'm playing a dad, I'm a father. You know, I'm a father to a princess, or a young lady who's going to become a princess, yes.

Ed Gamble

That's more of, like, a fantasy, sort of.

Ray Winstone

Yes, it's, kind of, a mixture of what old fairy stories were and I guess we modernised it a bit. I mean, we're meeting a Juan Carlos, the director, had a great chat. I really like this guy and he was a good director, a really good director, and we had a chat what it was going to be about. I had no interest really of being in a fantasy, kind of, movie. It's not what I enjoyed doing, but when I sat down and had a chat with this guy, then I started thinking about, you know, I've got grandsons now and that it'd be great for them to see it, rather than me punching someone, I'm going to be in a fantasy kind of movie fighting dragons and all of that kind of stuff.

Ed Gamble

When they get older, they can watch you punching someone.

Ray Winstone

Yes, yes, but this one's great, and you know, the costume department in it were incredible. I mean, the armour I had to wear in it as a 66-year-old man was real armour. You know, it was crazy. I couldn't move. I couldn't move. I mean, if I as a knight in the old days, I'd definitely want to take the armour off to have a tear up, because you actually can't move. If you fall over, you can't get up. I had to carry this around and they thought it was very funny, but yes, that was the tough bit of the filming, but I had to say, it looks incredible. It looks incredible, and I think it's going to be quite a special little film, you know.



Ed Gamble

Fantastic.

James Acaster

Were you filming these quite close to each other, or even at the same time?

Ray Winstone

No, Damsel was done, I think it was June just after COVID. I remember flying out to Portugal. I'd had a COVID test the night before and I was negative, and we got to Portugal and had another test, because you have to before you go on set, and I was positive. I couldn't go on set for a week until it cleared, you know, and there was a swimming pool there and we had a barbecue going. I felt great. What's that all about? I've come on holiday, you know. It's like, I've been in a beautiful part of the world, Portugal, you know.

James Acaster

Obviously, I mean, I know I've already mentioned Sexy Beast but you're saying you're by a swimming pool, on the barbecue, in hot weather.

Ray Winstone

Yes, just the Derby, just the derby hanging out and the sweating, the-

James Acaster

You're not going to work. Were they turning up everyday going, 'We need you on set,' and you were like, 'No, I can't come back,' and they were like, 'Yes, say yes?'

Ray Winstone

No, no, they were telling me to stay there, so I was there with my shorts on, with nice little shorts, laying around the pool, and Joe would be at the barbecue giving it loads. He used to cook a nice pasta as well, a really nice pasta, yes, and we'd do a nice chicken or something like that, for a week.

Ed Gamble

It sounds ideal. Yes.

James Acaster

It does sound ideal.

Ray Winstone

You're there to work though, aren't you? You know, you're there to do a bit of graft. I think mind the holiday, it was fine. I mean the rest, it was fine.

James Acaster

Yes. I mean, already there, the way you described the food on the barbecue, we can tell that you appreciate food which is good for this podcast.



Ray Winstone

That would be the-

James Acaster

Yes?

Ray Winstone

Yes. In fact, it was very difficult to think of a proper dish, you know, that I really do enjoy because there are so many, Japanese, all the way through. I've been lucky because in the job that I do, you travel, and if you're lucky enough to, you travel to places where not necessarily the tourists go, you go to places where the locals go, because that's where you're going to film. That's when you find the real cooking and the real bits that you enjoy, rather than going to somewhere where all the tourists are, and you get a pizza, and you get this, and you get that. You know, I've been lucky enough to go to places where it's very diverse. Yes.

James Acaster

Well, let's see how that plays out throughout your menu.

We always start with still or sparkling water. Do you have a preference?

Ray Winstone

Sparkling, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, straight in there.

Ed Gamble

Straight away. Always sparkling?

Ray Winstone

Yes. It's a bit more interesting, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

There's always something going on.

Ray Winstone

You get a big half a lemon and squeeze it in there.

Ed Gamble

You got half a lemon squeezed in?



Ray Winstone

And ice, yes. Bang. If you're going to have a drink, have a proper drink, you know, don't mess around. Water is water, that's all it is. It's very good. We need it to live, but you know, you can fancy it up a little bit.

Ed Gamble

Yes, nice. Do you have a particular sparkling water that you like?

Ray Winstone

No, they're all the same, believe me. You know, some are more sparkling than others I know, but it's a load of cobblers really. Someone's getting a lot of money out of bottling water, you know. It should be free. It's natural, you know.

James Acaster

You sounds like-, what I'm getting so far, you don't really trust people.

Ray Winstone

No, especially, I'm in South London. I've got to be very careful over here.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. True.

Ed Gamble

Are there a lot of, sort of, sparkling water gangsters over there?

Ray Winstone

Yes, Millwall, yes.

Ed Gamble

I didn't know Millwall had got into the sparkling water game.

Ray Winstone

They get into everything, believe me.

James Acaster

I'm glad that you're squeezing the lemon in there as well. Some people just put the lemon wedge in or slice.

Ray Winstone

Depends how much lemon you like. If you just want a little bit of an aroma going, then you just drop it in, but if you like a lot of lemon, you squeeze it.

Ed Gamble

You've got to squeeze it in.



Ray Winstone

Yes, yes, especially with ice. You've got to have ice.

James Acaster

Are you doing the crushed ice? I imagine you would, because you've tried squeezing that lemon.

Ray Winstone

Yes, yes. Crushed ice is lovely but it melts very quick. With sparkling water, you want chunks.

Ed Gamble

Chunks?

Ray Winstone

Yes.

James Acaster

Big chunky ice?

Ray Winstone

Yes.

Ed Gamble

I agree with the squeezing the lemon. When people put a wedge in or, like, if I have a gin and tonic or something, and there's a wedge of lime in there, some people just leave it to bob around. It's not doing anything.

Ray Winstone

Yes. Well, I usually leave the lemon in there if I'm having a vodka and coke, something like that, leave it in every time so I know how many I've had.

Ed Gamble

When you're making another one, you put a fresh-,

Ray Winstone

Yes, you leave the other one in and the fresh one in, and you know how many drinks you've had, you see.

Ed Gamble

That is genius. Then, how many lemons would have to be in there for you to say, 'I'm not going to have another one?'

Ray Winstone

When you can't get no more drink in there.



James Acaster

When it's a glass of lemons.

Ed Gamble

Yes, when it's a big glass of lemon.

James Acaster

Poppadoms or bread? Poppadoms or bread, Ray Winstone? Poppadoms or bread?

Ray Winstone

Depending on the bread and where you are. In Italy, the bread is very good. Here, I don't know, it sticks in my throat a little bit here, so I like the sourdough and a little bit like that, you know, but I don't mind the crispy stuff. It's alright, depending what you've got. If you're having a ruby, you want a poppadom, or a naan.

James Acaster

Now, a ruby.

Ed Gamble

Come on, you know that's entry level.

Ray Winstone

Come on liven yourself up.

Ed Gamble

Come on, you know.

Ray Winstone

How long have you lived in London?

James Acaster

It's worth it for the response. I've been in London for, I don't know, fourteen years now.

Ray Winstone

Where are you from originally?

James Acaster

Kettering in Northamptonshire.

Ray Winstone

Yes, just about, that sums it up basically.

James Acaster

Yes?



Ray Winstone

Yes. Right, got it.

Ed Gamble

You know ruby. Even I know ruby.

Ray Winstone

I should calm down a bit, for him.

James Acaster

No, do not. I want maximum Winstone the whole time. What would you have for your dream meal? Are you going bread?

Ray Winstone

No. I think I'd go-, I know what my stater is and I've got, kind of, a middle starter as well before I get to the main course, and I'm sticking very fishy today. Usually, I'll have a rib of beef, love a rib of beef, and I like, as I said, Japanese food. I mean, because when I walk away after having a Japanese meal, I never feel bloated.

Ed Gamble

That's it, bang on.

Ray Winstone

I feel good, you know, but when I'm wearing something, especially in this country, yes, so bread wouldn't be that. I wouldn't have too much bread. I'd have probably a little bit of something crispy, a little bit crispy and light just to get me ready for the first course.

James Acaster

Have some butter with it?

Ray Winstone

Yes. Yes, I like a little bit of butter, otherwise it's a bit bland, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes.

Ray Winstone

Or olive oil.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

James Acaster

Yes, lovely.



Ray Winstone

A bit of olive oil in if you're having bread, sour bread as well. I do it at home. Olive oil, boom, boom, boom, done. I make my own olive oil. I've got olive trees in Sicily, so I bring one home for the family and we just use olive oil now, more than we use butter. It's just so much better for you, you know.

Ed Gamble

You make your own olive oil in Sicily?

Ray Winstone

Yes.

James Acaster

How long have you been doing that for?

Ray Winstone

About five or six years, yes.

James Acaster

Amazing.

Ray Winstone

Yes, it's very grainy as well, and really good for you, you know.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Do you, like, bottle it and label it up?

Ray Winstone

Yes, for the family.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Do you put a special label on it or anything?

Ray Winstone

Yes, my kids do it for me. I'm not that fancy. I'm just-, it's oil, that's it, but they put on a little thing and all that, yes. I think they've got ideas of grandeur of opening up an olive plant. 'Woah, hold up. I'm just enjoying myself.' Yes.

James Acaster

I'm quite fascinated with this, so you decided, like, five years ago, 'I'm going to get some olive trees?'

Ray Winstone

No, I've got a place out there, because I live half the year out there, and there were a few trees on the land anyway, and then I started to tidy the place up. It was an old run-down place, and we started planting more trees, and you know, the olive tree is an amazing tree because it doesn't matter-, this



year, the weather was so diverse where we had no rain, and we had, I mean, literally up to 54 degrees it was getting. You know, so you think, 'This year's crop is going to be absolute crap, you're going to get nothing out of it,' and it's probably the best oil we've had, and that's down to the olive tree. The olive tree looks after itself. All you've got to do is give it a little trim now and then, you know, but basically it's an amazing tree. What you get off it, I've got almonds there and pistachio, you know, so this year, we lost all of our crops, tomatoes and things like that, because of the weather. Usually, we're really self-sufficient there. You know, you're getting what you get, and what you can't get, you go down to the local supermarket and you do that, but it's all local stuff, and you're eating, and I feel much better when I'm out there eating than what I do when I come home. It's crazy.

James Acaster

Yes, that sounds delicious.

Ed Gamble

It sounds like you're living like you're in an Olivio advert.

Ray Winstone

Maybe, yes. Yes, that sounds good.

James Acaster

Would you do an advert for Olivio?

Ray Winstone

No, I don't think so.

James Acaster

Well, if it was the same as the betting adverts, so it's your head screaming.

Ray Winstone

The betting advert are wonderful. I love those, but I'm not doing those anymore. That's stopped now. I had twelve years of that, twelve wonderful years, great company, great people, and actually, you know, looked after me, paid me well.

James Acaster

What if they approached you and said, 'We're going to do an Olivio advert. It's going to be the same style as the betting advert, so it'd be like your head, you know, screaming at the 360 cameras but it'd be for that olive oil?'

Ray Winstone

Yes. I'd do it, yes.

James Acaster

Lets get into your dream menu proper, your dream starter.



Ray Winstone

Right. Well, I've had to dig deep for this, but dressed crab.

Ed Gamble

Oh, nice.

Ray Winstone

I think dressed crab with a nice chunk of lemon on the side, seafood sauce, all done beautifully there. You can't beat it. In fact, once going back about ten years ago, I was in my local restaurant, Smiths, which I've been going in all my life, great seafood and everything, and he'd done me in the end-, he doesn't even remember doing this for me but he'd done me in the end, he'd done me a crab, dressed crab, but he baked a cheddar cheese on top of it. I've got to tell you, it's incredible. Dressed crab with baked cheddar cheese on the top is different class. I like lobster, but crab when it's done properly is different gravy, I've got to tell you.

Ed Gamble

With the dressed crab, they, sort of, separate out the white and the brown meat or is it all just in there?

Ray Winstone

I mean, you can do that if you want to do that, but I mean, the way it is, you just open that up and you put a lot of cheddar cheese on top, put it in the oven or under the grill, all day long. Different class. I've got to tell you, you've got to try it.

James Acaster

He doesn't remember doing it for you?

Ray Winstone

Exactly. When I said to him, 'Can you do this?' He said, 'I didn't do that.' I said, 'You did.' He must have been drunker than me. Yes.

James Acaster

They've not done it for you since?

Ray Winstone

No, I haven't asked for it since to be honest.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you don't want to ruin that memory.

Ray Winstone

No, one-off, it was beautiful.

James Acaster

I mean, we don't get crab very often on this podcast. That's great to hear.



Ed Gamble

No, we don't actually. Yes.

James Acaster

Have another shout-out for crab. Do you want that one that he made you that day as part of your dream menu?

Ray Winstone

No, I think just a plain dressed crab, simple to start you with, and it's light, and it just gets you in the flow, especially with having fish. You can have it before a rib of beef. It doesn't matter, you know, but if you're going with the fish, maybe a couple of cockles on the side.

Ed Gamble

We'll throw a couple of cockles on the side for sure, and you get to squeeze lemon again.

Ray Winstone

Yes, just love it. Got to squeeze a bit of lemon, yes.

James Acaster

There's a guy around Kettering who used to just go around the pubs selling cockles in the evening. He'd wait until everyone was hammered so then you just go, 'Yes, I'll have a bunch of cockles.'

Ray Winstone

Yes, and wilkes, cockles and wilkes, all that. Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, I bought them once.

Ed Gamble

Did you?

James Acaster

Yes, yes. I was, like, 21.

Ray Winstone

When we were kids, we used to call him the smelly man. Yes, 'Mum, the smelly man is here.' It'd be his lorry coming around.

Ed Gamble

To his face?

Ray Winstone

Yes, everyone knew him as that because he was fishy.



James Acaster

He did smell.

Ray Winstone

You could smell the fish.

Ed Gamble

Yes, course he knew it. That's part of the game, isn't it?

Ray Winstone

Yes, course he did.

Ed Gamble

The smelly man, and you would buy cockles off the smelly man?

James Acaster

I did it once. I did it once. I was like, 'I'll have some.'

Ray Winstone

Were you ill? Is that why you didn't buy them again?

James Acaster

No, I was alright actually. Actually, I never saw him again so maybe that was it. It was like, 'Right, I've got-'

Ray Winstone

He took all your money and he went on holiday.

James Acaster

Yes, yes. I overpaid for them I think.

Ray Winstone

That was great though. When you think of those days though, you had all of them characters coming around to pubs. I mean, pubs now aren't the same, are they? They've changed. The whole character of a pub has changed. The whole reason you were there has changed. You like a drink but you mix with people and you converse, you know, and you have a laugh with different people from all over the world, but now it's different. It's very different going into a pub.

James Acaster

Well, you probably can't go into the pub these days, can you, Ray? Surely, like-,

Ray Winstone

Why?



James Acaster

You'd be swamped, they'd swarm around you. They'd go, 'Ray Winstone's there.'

Ray Winstone

No, I can go in pubs where I live.

James Acaster

Yes?

Ray Winstone

They're all used to me walking about. They don't really care.

James Acaster

Yes, but that's the thing. You were saying that you used to be able to just, like, talk to loads of strangers and stuff in the pub. You can't do that now.

Ray Winstone

Yes. Well, no, people don't talk to people anymore really, do they?

Ed Gamble

What about in Sicily? Do you go and hang out in a bar in Sicily?

Ray Winstone

Yes, there are bars, the clock tower. We go up to the clock tower, that's good. There's a little town called Cianciana. It means tiny bells, I think it means, and it's just the same faces you see all the time, and I know all the families anyway. The kids live near me in Essex, you know, they're all people who've got greenhouses who sell cucumbers, grow cucumbers, tomatoes and all of that sort of stuff, so I know their sons, and I know their kids, and you know, now I know their mums and dads, and uncles, and that. It's just like being part of a family, you know, it's alright. It reminds me very much of what London was when I was a kid, you know. You knew everyone in the street. It sounds really cool, you know, and you're probably sick to death of hearing it, but doors were open, you know, people, neighbours helped neighbours. It was a different world, and I, kind of, get that there. You know, when my grandchildren come, they walk about the streets until two o'clock in the morning, but it aren't a worry. Everyone's watching, everyone looks after the kids, you know. It used to be like that here. It's not like it anymore.

Ed Gamble

I don't know, our road, you know.

Ray Winstone

Is it good like that?

Ed Gamble

Yes, there's a WhatsApp group.



Ray Winstone

A what?

Ed Gamble

A WhatsApp group.

Ray Winstone

Oh, yes.

Ed Gamble

We're all on the WhatsApp group, and neighbours help neighbours.

Ray Winstone

Well, that's great. That's good to hear.

Ed Gamble

There have been some parcel thieves recently, so a guy at the end of the road put out a bait parcel. To quote him, he put 15 kg of crap in a box and he's going to wait to see if they try and steal that.

Ray Winstone

Proper geezer.

Ed Gamble

You know, it's still nice around London.

James Acaster

Looney Tunes starting.

Ray Winstone

I love it, okay. Well, that's good.

Ed Gamble

Yes.

James Acaster

Someone on my friends' WhatsApp group posted a photo going, 'Who's cat is this?' It was my friend's cat and she was like, 'It was my cat, but it was wearing a t-shirt in the photo and it wasn't wearing a t-shirt when it left my house in the morning.' Someone had put a t-shirt on that cat.

Ray Winstone

Well, that's very neighbourly, isn't it?

James Acaster

Yes, there's just that cat walking around wearing a t-shirt.



Ray Winstone

What sort of t-shirt was it?

James Acaster

Just a plain white t-shirt but made for a cat.

Ray Winstone

What, nothing on it? No writing or anything like that?

James Acaster

Yes, just a cat t-shirt, plain white, but the cat's just there, first time in it's life wearing a t-shirt, all rigid, just walking around in it. Someone's like, 'Who's cat is this?'

Ray Winstone

Walking around not upright, on all fours?

James Acaster

No, no.

The dream main course, Ray, now we know this is going to be-

Ray Winstone

Well, we know I've got a little course in between the two.

Ed Gamble

You've got a little course.

James Acaster

I love it, I love it.

Ray Winstone

If you don't mind.

James Acaster

I don't mind at all.

Ray Winstone

Artichokes.

James Acaster

Lovely.



Ray Winstone

Right? Now, you get an artichoke and it's very good for you. You know, once you've eaten that, it cleans you out inside. It really looks after you. What you do with an artichoke, you put it in the pan and you wash it, wash it for about, I don't know, 45 minutes or something like that, until you think they're clean. Dry them off, get all the water out of them, get them a little bit damp, cut them in half, and if they're the spiky ones, you cut the spikes off. You don't want to be messing about with them. Cut them in half, and then you put your olive oil on them, so they sit in a pan, like, with the half up, right. You've done all that. Black pepper or white pepper, and salt, plenty of salt, plenty of sale on them, right. Boom, in the oven, burn them.

Ed Gamble

Oh, wow.

Ray Winstone

You've got to burn them, because your won't burn. You eat them. They're the governors. They are the governors, and they're very, very good for you. The trouble is I eat too many of them because I just really like them, you know, and that's that pepper and salt, and the olive oil, and all of that. That can be a bit dangerous the next day. You've got to keep an eye on yourself.

Ed Gamble

You can be too clean inside, can't you?

Ray Winstone

Absolutely, yes, and in the wrong place, you know, so you've got to be a bit careful with them, but they're amazing. You've had the crab which is nice and light. You've had the artichoke which is also light but is doing you very, very good inside, and then you're getting ready then, right, and you've been eating a couple of cockles on the way through.

Ed Gamble

Yes, from the smelly man.

Ray Winstone

Right, and then you're getting ready. Are we having a wine with this dinner?

James Acaster

If you want.

Ray Winstone

Yes, it'd be nice. I know it's fish and people say you shouldn't have red wine with fish, which I think is a load of cobblers. You drink what you like.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I never stick to those rules.



Ray Winstone

No, so you're with a nice bottle of Nero d'Avola, which is, kind of, the grape that comes from the foot of Etna, so it's nice and mineral, beautiful red wine and all of that kind of stuff. Fantastic, fantastic wine, so you've got to have a drop of red, or a nice Amarone which is from the north of Italy. I like Italian wine, it's good stuff, you know, but they also do a Rose Planeta, which is a good wine. I'm not a white wine drinker. Don't like it. It gives me a headache, but Rose is very, very, good, so we've got our wine sorted.

Ed Gamble

Nice.

James Acaster

All three bottles of that on the table.

Ray Winstone

As many as you like, yes.

James Acaster

Yes, okay. That's lovely. Artichokes sound amazing. I think once you realise that you can just season vegetables and grill them, and they're amazing.

Ed Gamble

They're delicious, yes.

Ray Winstone

Absolutely, you don't need anything else.

James Acaster

It's so easy to go through a phase of just doing that all the time.

Ray Winstone

Absolutely, yes. Yes.

James Acaster

I do that with leeks and with aubergines, and it's just so good.

Ray Winstone

Well, because it's so geared up, Sicily, for vegetables, you find yourself eating less and less red meat. I'm a red meat eater, I love it, but out there, the vegetables are so good. It's like, a pepper, you pick a pepper up. It's like eating an apple. It's not like here when it's been in the fridge for about two months, you know, unless you go to a farm shop or something and get it local. Here in Sicily, you pick up a pepper and you crunch it, and you go, 'Oh, yes.'

Ed Gamble

Would you do that though? Do you walk around just eating a pepper like an apple?



Ray Winstone

Well, not all of the time. You know, if I want an apple, I'll have an apple, but you know, it's that, kind of, good. It really is.

James Acaster

Yes, a good pepper. It does make you-

Ray Winstone

Yes, and with the peppers, obviously you can throw them in a pan. It's another little veggie dish. You just throw it on a pan with loads of olive oil on it, Parmigiana cheese all over it, put that in the oven for 25 minutes, and it burns the peppers down, and the Parmigiana just, kind of, thickly melts over it and you crunch on that.

Ray Winstone

Yes, bada bing. Sound like Tony Soprano.

James Acaster

You do, but it was great.

Ed Gamble

It would really get in my head if I walked into someone's house and they picked up a pepper and ate it like it was an apple. I think that's a-,

Ray Winstone

Would that upset you?

Ed Gamble

No, it's just a power play, isn't it, because you're not expecting it.

Ray Winstone

No, I suppose it really would throw you, wouldn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, if they just held eye contact and just bit into a pepper.

James Acaster

While they were talking to you. Yes.

Ed Gamble

Yes, yes.

James Acaster

Your dream main course, we know it's going to be a fish, so yes, we've got all this wine to go with it and you built up to it beautifully with the crab and the artichokes.



Ray Winstone

I'm full up, you know, even thinking about. Dover sole.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.

Ray Winstone

Do you know what? In Sicily, I'm not a lover of Mediterranean fish. I mean, I'll eat it and it's alright and all that, but I was brought up with Atlantic fish, that cold-water fish, you know. For certain months of the year in Sicily, you can get Dover sole. It's November, around about November time, and I was in this restaurant called Lampara in Sciacca, and I saw when they brought it out, they had Dover sole. I went, 'Ah, Dover sole. Fantastic,' and so I told him how I like it in the pan, you know, with butter, wine, bing, bing, bing, turn it over, but I want it on the bone. I don't want it all taken off the bone so you're only getting a little bit. I like the whole fish, you know, and he said, 'Yes, si, si, no problemo.' So, he's taken it away, and he's brought it back but it must have got lost in translation because what he's done, he's left the whole fish and he's cooked it how I've asked him, but he's put it in a tempura, right. It destroyed me, because I was so looking forward to having the fish the way I asked for it, right, and I'm not one who kicks up a fuss and all of that. Well, that's what it is, you know, and he's put this fish down, I've looked at it, it's a Dover sole in tempura. I felt fucking-, you know, I waited until November for Dover sole, and this prick has cooked it with tempura, but anyway, 'Are you okay, Mr Ray?' 'Yes, thank you. Very nice, thank you very much,' right, and it was the best thing I've ever eaten. It was so light, the tempura, never seen Dover sole done in batter or, you know, I've had plaice which is close, but this was done in a tempura, and it was incredible the way the guy had cooked it. I'd gone from ordering something that I'd really wanted to getting something that he'd really fucked up, right, to something that was incredible, and it was an incredible dish. I've thought about all the stuff that I love. I love beef and I love, you know, the Japanese gear, the Mexican, I can eat anything. Ruby, I love a ruby, you know, it's the greatest thing in the world.

Ed Gamble

James?

Ray Winstone

Curry.

James Acaster

A curry, yes.

Ray Winstone

Curry, old chap. Yes, but this has got to be one of the best experiences I've ever had of eating a bit of Lillian Gish.

Ed Gamble

Do you think it did get lost in translation or do you think he listened to everything you said, went back to the kitchen, and he went, 'I'm going to do it the way that I want to do it?'



Ray Winstone

I think so. I think that's exactly what happened, and that's what good chefs do I suppose, because they're artists in a way, and I think he knew it was so good, the way he was going to do it. I'd like to think that anyway, so that was fine.

Ed Gamble

Yes. I think that's what it was.

Ray Winstone

I think he quite enjoyed me having the hump about it.

James Acaster

Do you think you could tell?

Ray Winstone

Yes, I think he was a little bit stabby in the back, but until I ate it and he was watching me, and I went, 'Yes, alright then. That's the governor.' That is the governor, you know.

Ed Gamble

That does sound absolutely delicious.

James Acaster

Yes, that sounds good.

Ed Gamble

That thin batter where it's clearly like the fish steams inside the batter.

Ray Winstone

It's unbelievable what he's done, you know, and that Atlantic sea taste, for me, is I don't know, just different class to what you get. Because I wasn't brought up there, I suppose if you're brought up there, you're used to that kind of flavour, and I don't know, it's more meatier, their fish. Then again, you'll eat a cod but there's something about the texture and the coldness, even though you've cooked it, you feel like the flavours, there are more flavours there. Yes, I prefer a North Atlantic kind of fish.

James Acaster

Also, I'd quite like to just roll back a little bit because I think there was a moment earlier that we didn't really appreciate enough off is when you said bada bing earlier, and you looked right at Ed. I don't know if it's the nose that you looked right at and said bada bing, and I'd like to just check in with Ed how that felt, because I imagine that was one of the best moments of your life.

Ed Gamble

Fantastic. I was fantastic.



Ray Winstone

Well, I'm pleased you liked it.

Ed Gamble

I loved it.

Ray Winstone

Okay.

James Acaster

I knew that Ed would have enjoyed that.

Ray Winstone

Wonderful.

Ed Gamble

I think James was jealous he didn't get a bada bing.

James Acaster

No, no.

Ed Gamble

He's rolled it back.

Ray Winstone

I'll do something else for you.

James Acaster

No, I don't need a bada bing. You looked at me and said, 'Curry, old chap,' and that was very nice. I enjoyed that, but Ed got the bada bing.

Ed Gamble

I got the bada bing and I was very happy with the bada bing.

Ray Winstone

Yes, I was feeling very Tony Soprano. With you, I don't know what I was feeling.

James Acaster

Yes. I mean, who knows what character you having to inhabit for that. Here's a question that I'm going to make up on the spot. Say they did a film where it was about a group of gangsters, but they're all from different pre-existing things, so say Tony Soprano's in there and you get to be in the gang playing one of the gangsters you've played. You can choose who, and then who else would you want in there?



Ray Winstone

James Cagney, Edward G. Robinson. I've got to take a moment. Yes, I mean, Humphrey Bogart. Good, isn't it?

Ed Gamble

Yes, against the super group.

James Acaster

Which one of yours?

Ray Winstone

Oh, Bob Hoskins.

Ed Gamble

Yes, Hoskins.

James Acaster

Hoskins, you know, when I was a little kid, I was watching him in fun roles, Who Framed Roger Rabbit.

Ray Winstone

Yes, sure, but that's how diverse he was.

James Acaster

Yes. When I first saw him do scary, I was like, I can't believe how scary he is. He's proper scary.

Ray Winstone

Yes. No, he is, I've worked with him. I loved him to death. He was proper-

James Acaster

You've met Bob Hoskins and Robin Williams.

Ray Winstone

Well, I didn't meet Robin Williams, I watched him. Yes.

James Acaster

Yes, I'm jealous of both of those things.

Ray Winstone

I've been around, kid.

James Acaster

Which one of your characters would win in a fight against all the rest of your characters?



Ed Gamble

That's a good question, isn't it?

Ray Winstone

That's a bit below the belt, isn't it? Oh, I don't know. Who would win a fight?

James Acaster

Royal Rumble, all your characters are in the ring together.

Ed Gamble

Who's coming out on top?

Ray Winstone

Oh, God, I don't know. I can't answer that, because I feel like I'd be cheating on one of them.

James Acaster

Yes, you love them all.

Ray Winstone

No, not all of them. I don't. You know, probably the guy who was Nil by Mouth, because he'd be dirty.

Ed Gamble

Yes, he's horrible.

James Acaster

He's horrible.

Ray Winstone

I mean, I know he was a bully and all that but he was a horrible guy, you know.

Ed Gamble

Nil by Mouth is not good for the Off Menu podcast.

Ray Winstone

You get the feeling that in Nil by Mouth, he's going to go back to do the geezer when he's not looking, you know, he's a bit slippery, isn't he?

Ed Gamble

We don't like him.

James Acaster

No, we do not like that man.



Ray Winstone

No, he's a horrible man. Nasty, horrible man.

James Acaster

There you go. I've got a nasty, horrible man said straight to me.

Dream side dish.

Ed Gamble

Dream side, yes.

James Acaster

The dream side dish for this.

Ray Winstone

Dream side dish, there are so many. Well, if I'm keeping with the fish thing, yes, a side, you see, I would like cauliflower cheese with the Dover sole. I think that would go, you know, don't need the potatoes, so there's no chips involved. Maybe a little bit of mash, might have a little bit of mash, but definitely cauliflower cheese.

Ed Gamble

I like that you've got-, because it's as you keep saying, a very light meal so far, so you need that bit of richness.

Ray Winstone

Yes, because you're going out after.

Ed Gamble

You're going out after?

Ray Winstone

Yes, without any shadow of a doubt.

James Acaster

Where would you go to for after your dream meal?

Ray Winstone

It depends where I was. You've got to be careful. It's dangerous out there.

James Acaster

Well, it's just a dream meal so, like, you could have the meal wherever you want.



Ray Winstone

Well, maybe you won't. Maybe you'd just like to leave that there, feeling quite light and nice, walk out onto a nice balcony where you're overlooking the sea because you've ate seafood, right, and sit down with your wife, you know, and sit down and have a nice glass of something, just have a little chat whilst you watch the moon go across the sky.

Ed Gamble

Lovely.

Ray Winstone

That's beautiful. I didn't know I was capable of that.

Ed Gamble

What a wonderful scene.

James Acaster

What would you be chatting to your wife about? What are some of the best conversations?

Ray Winstone

No, I can't, that's private.

James Acaster

You've got the cauliflower cheese. Is there a particular, like, cauliflower cheese, the best place you've had it, the best person who's made it for you when you've gone to their house?

Ray Winstone

They make it very good in Smiths in Ongar. I like-, because when I have fish, I usually have a little bit of cauliflower cheese, and everyone else goes, 'Dad, cauliflower cheese?' And they all want some, so I make sure I get two of them. You know, you order two otherwise you've got none. It's always the way, yes.

James Acaster

You'd like me to bring out two cauliflower cheese for you, for your dream meal so everyone else can have it?

Ray Winstone

Absolutely, because you know, even though my wife would say, 'I don't want cauliflower cheese,' she will.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so you need a decoy.



Ray Winstone

It's like when you're coming home from work late at night, you know, I always phone up and say, 'Listen, I'm going to pick something up on the way. I'm going to get a Chinese takeaway. Does anyone want anything there?' 'No, no, we've eaten.' 'Okay, alright. Fine.' As soon as I put the phone down, I know, I order a little bit extra. Keep that in another bag, right, and you walk in, because as soon as you've got your bit out, you've been at work all day, you just want a little bit of, you know-, no, they want it. They want some. 'Dad, that looks-, I'll have a bit of that.' I'll give them the bag, 'Here's the bag,' because if they don't want it, I know I've got that for lunch the next morning. Cold Chinese, can't beat it.

Ed Gamble

Yes. It's almost like you're just throwing it to the other side of the room to distract them, right?

Ray Winstone

Just go away.

James Acaster

That's what you could be talking to your wife about after the meal. You could be like, 'I told you you'd want some of that cauliflower cheese.'

Ray Winstone

I'm not going there. I've told you already. Don't make me tell you again.

Ed Gamble

He's pushing on it.

Ray Winstone

It's private.

James Acaster

Your dream drink. Now, you've got all the bottles of wine throughout the meal, but do you have a drink that is your dream drink, your perfect drink?

Ray Winstone

No, I do drink, because it's an easy drink and you don't get a hangover with it I've found, is a vodka and coke funnily enough.

James Acaster

Oh man, I was so hoping you'd say vodka and cranberry juice. I was sitting here, I was getting ready to say it. I was getting ready to say, 'What is it, your period?'

Ray Winstone

In the summer, vodka and Fanta Orange or cranberry juice.



James Acaster

What is it, your period?

Ray Winstone

You being funny?

James Acaster

Yes, yes.

Ray Winstone

Get this guy a cranberry juice.

James Acaster

That's from the Departed, for everyone listening who doesn't know that. That's not me.

Ed Gamble

Just in case you thought James has lost his mind.

James Acaster

You want vodka coke?

Ray Winstone

Yes, easy drink for me. I love a Jameson's. I like a nice Jameson's, drink too much of it though it hurts you, so you, kind of, leave that out a little bit, but I do like a Jameson's, yes.

James Acaster

For the vodka coke, I don't know what to ask about that.

Ed Gamble

What vodka?

Ray Winstone

Do you like ice with it? Ray, do you like ice with it? Yes, I do. I like loads of ice with it, and crushed ice is very nice with it, and a slice of?

James Acaster

Lemon?

Ed Gamble

Lemon. We're getting through the lemons in this meal.

James Acaster

Are you squeezing the lemon in it?



Ray Winstone

No, no.

James Acaster

You're keeping it in there so you know how many you've had.

Ray Winstone

Never squeeze because it's too acidic, it gets too acidic. Just that one, you don't squeeze. You just put it in.

Ed Gamble

Yes, and it's- Yes, it's more of a token.

Ray Winstone

Sometimes, it can smell a bit damp, lemon. Have you noticed that in a drink? Sometimes, in some places where they cut it up, they put that in your drink, and the lemon smells damp.

James Acaster

Are you sure the drink doesn't smell damp? Drink is pretty damp.

Ray Winstone

No, it's the lemon. No, I think it's the lemon.

James Acaster

I mean, you're holding the dampest thing in the world, a drink.

Ray Winstone

Yes, I know, but it's obviously been lying about somewhere, hasn't it, the lemon, and it comes straight out.

Ed Gamble

Yes, old pub lemons.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Is there a particular vodka that you like? What's the one you-

James Acaster

Crystal Head?



Ray Winstone

I did, you know, Grey Goose although it's French funnily enough, is quite nice but then again, I thought this is taking the piss. I mean, it's for the bottle. You're paying for the bottle.

Ed Gamble

Yes, there's a lot of that.

Ray Winstone

You know, vodka, Stolichnaya is quite good. If you're going to have a vodka, have a Russian or a Czech one, I suppose, you know, but the English have started doing it. In my farm shop, we're selling English vodka and I have to say it was rather good. It was very, very nice. I was a bit Harry Enfield then, wasn't I?

James Acaster

You played the Russian character in the MCU.

Ray Winstone

Yes, yes, I did. Yes, it was a bit iffy, you know.

James Acaster

Look, all those other Russian people did what you said, so you must have been a legit-,

Ray Winstone

Well, no, I had a bit of power going on about it, yes. It's funny because I shot that twice. The first time I shot it, I'd done it, because you're playing, kind of, like, this guy who actually grooms young women, so I played him as a nonce, you know, this paedophile. They, kind of, didn't like it, thought it was bit heavy. They thought it was little bit heavy for the character, so I had to go and shoot it all again.

Ed Gamble

Did you?

Ray Winstone

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Did they call you up and go, 'We've just watched it back and you've been too much of a paedophile in there?'

Ray Winstone

Well, it was, kind of, getting to that level. Yes, so I had to go and do it again.

Ed Gamble

It does make sense for the character, right? Yes.



Ray Winstone

Well, you know, it's done. It's done. You're there with the director, you play the part, you work it out, and then all of a sudden, someone with a suit decides that you've got to do it another way.

James Acaster

Do you think, like, often they resurrect characters in the MCU and stuff, do you think he's done for good or do you think he's going to-,

Ray Winstone

I would have thought so, yes. I would have thought so, yes.

James Acaster

He seemed to have died.

Ray Winstone

I think so, yes.

James Acaster

It looked like he did.

Ray Winstone

Yes, in every possible way.

James Acaster

Yes, but then a multiverse version of him might come back.

Ray Winstone

You never know. You never know, yes.

James Acaster

That's the thing, isn't it?

Ray Winstone

It could be like Dallas, couldn't it? You know, wake up in the shower or something.

James Acaster

Your dream dessert please, Ray?

Ray Winstone

Crème brûlée.

James Acaster

Yeh.



Ed Gamble

Lovely.

Ray Winstone

It's light, isn't it? Again, it's light. You don't get up from the table feeling-, I mean, I love a sticky toffee pudding, love it to death. If I'm going to get up and then lay on the settee, that's the one to have, or blackberry and apple crumble, I had that yesterday. It was fantastic, I've got to tell you, with double cream on it. Anyway, if you're out and you're having something to eat, and very light, it'd be a crème brûlée.

James Acaster

You like cracking the top?

Ray Winstone

Yes. It's that little bit of toffee.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ed Gamble

Cracking the top is such a joy, isn't it?

Ray Winstone

Very, yes. I'll always crack the top, but it's nice and light again, you know. You don't get up from the table thinking, 'Oh.' You know, (fart noise) well, he's got a glass, hasn't he?

James Acaster

Nowadays, there are loads of different flavour crème brûlées as well, but would you-,

Ed Gamble

Classic?

Ray Winstone

Classic.

James Acaster

It sounds like you're going for the classic.

Ray Winstone

The classic, yes. I mean, I've had it with raspberries and strawberries on top and all that, which is all very nice but you can have the classic, just done so it's all caramelised.



James Acaster

I always find, like, with crème brûlée, so I love a good crème brûlée, but so many places don't do it very well, so I'm trying to get a glimpse of other people's on different tables and see if they've got it, but if I haven't been able to catch a glimpse by the time I order dessert, I very rarely will order it blind.

Ray Winstone

Oh, really?

Ed Gamble

You've got to listen for the crack.

James Acaster

Sometimes, if you get a bad one, if it comes in a really shallow dish, I'm gutted because I want a lot of the custardy stuff underneath the crack. I want a big crack at the top, and I want it to be really lushy.

Ray Winstone

Yes, he liked a big crack.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you do.

James Acaster

I love a big crack.

Ray Winstone

He does, yes.

James Acaster

I love a big crack.

Ed Gamble

You should be able to-, you should just listen in the restaurant, right, and there should be cracks everywhere.

James Acaster

Yes, if you're hearing it.

Ray Winstone

Well, the next time you're in there, just say to the geezer, 'Is the dish deep and has it got a big crack?'

James Acaster

Yes, yes.



Ray Winstone

See what he comes back with.

Ed Gamble

Beforehand, you've got to say, 'I've got a question about the crème brûlée.' You can't say, 'I've got a question. Does it have a big crack?'

James Acaster

Well, I don't know, if he's a good waiter.

Ray Winstone

Well, you can try.

Ed Gamble

Yes, you could try. Give that a go first, yes.

James Acaster

Yes. No, I get nervous. I don't order it a lot of the time, even though I know it's good.

Ray Winstone

What is your favourite dish?

James Acaster

I mean, I could eat ice cream for the rest of my life.

Ray Winstone

What about the Japanese ice cream?

Ed Gamble

Yes.

Ray Winstone

With the thick coat around it.

James Acaster

Yes.

Ray Winstone

Have you had the mango one?

James Acaster

Yes, yes, very good.



Ed Gamble

So good.

Ray Winstone

My Elaine brought some-

Ed Gamble

The little mochi, the mochi balls?

Ray Winstone

Yes, she brought them home from somewhere like Iceland the other day, and they're these-, I said, 'Where did you get them from?' She said, 'Iceland.' I went, 'Iceland?' And now they've got coconut ones and mango. The mango.

James Acaster

Yes, delicious.

Ed Gamble

Little Moons I think is the name of the company.

Ray Winstone

Yes, is that what they are?

Ed Gamble

Yes, they're amazing. They're mochi, like, rice.

Ray Winstone

Fantastic.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so good.

James Acaster

My local cinema, instead of having, like, an ice cream, you know, a Ben & Jerry's thing, they've got Little Moons.

Ray Winstone

Have they?

James Acaster

It's just loads of different flavours of them and you can pick'n'mix your own.



Ray Winstone

Fantastic. That'd be me all day long. You have one, don't you, and you empty the box. I'd just do the box. I just love them to death.

James Acaster

You could go to the cinema, get a load of little moons and eat them, while watching yourself.

Ray Winstone

Could do.

James Acaster

Every time you appear on-screen, you eat a Little Moon.

Ray Winstone

Have a Little-, oh, there's another one. Yes. There's another one.

Ed Gamble

Can you watch yourself back? Some people can't, right?

Ray Winstone

Yes, I think it's all part and parcel of the learning curve, isn't it? You know when you're good. You know when you're bad, and hopefully you know how to put that right if it goes wrong, but once you've watched it, you've watched it. It's done. It may be years and years down the road, you come home one night, you've been out, turn the telly on, and there's the film with you in it, and you watch it for ten minutes, then you end up watching it all depending on how good it is, but you do, you know, that way. You don't sit down and think, you know, 'Right, I'm going to watch me in a film now.' I'd be a bit of prat if I do that.

James Acaster

Did you ever go to the cinema to watch a movie with yourself?

Ray Winstone

When they first come out, because that's where you judge it. They're made for film. A bit different now, you know, Netflix and all that, are films being made for the TV, but TVs now are like cinemas. They've got all the surround sound. You've got the TV up there which is widescreen anamorphic, and you know, if you get really close to it, it's like being at the pictures, isn't it? You know, how big your telly is. It is like being at the cinema and you turn the lights down. You've got the fucking sound going on.

Ed Gamble

Your bucket of Mini Moons.

Ray Winstone

It's like being at the pictures, except you haven't got to queue. Mind you, in my house, sometimes you have to.



James Acaster

Is there a particular cinema you like to go?

Ray Winstone

Not anymore. Not anymore.

James Acaster

I'll be transparent about why I'm asking this. The first thing I've filmed is going to be in the cinema. I've never done anything like that before, and I'm really looking forward to going and watching it in the Kettering Odeon where I used to watch films as a kid, because I think that will feel really special to watch it there rather than anywhere else. Is there a place like that for you?

Ray Winstone

No, because not many of them are left. I mean, I used to go every Wednesday with my dad to the cinema. He used to pick me up, because he worked in the fruit market and the meat markets, and all that, so he'd pick me up after work when I was coming out of school, and we'd go to the cinema every Wednesday. Once a month, we'd go down to the West End to see a film like Zulu, Thomas Becket, or whatever the film was of the time, you know, but them cinemas where I used to go when I was a kid, they're not there anymore. You know, even when we moved out, we moved out of North London because Dad went into the fruit game and he had fruit shops, and all that. There were cinemas that were in Enfield were the Florida and all of that kind, so they're not there. They're not cinemas anymore, you know, they're whatever, Co-ops or something like that. They're all gone, you know, so I've got no connection with cinema. Maybe the West End I have, because when we used to come up, we used to go the one at Marble Arch or you'd go to the one at Leicester Square to see a film, a new film, but really that's about it. You know, cinemas, I guess the nearest cinemas to me are Harlow.

Ed Gamble

None in Sicily?

Ray Winstone

No, because the town itself had a little cinema, very much like Cinema Paradiso, you know. Each town had a little cinema, but it's not there no more. To go to the cinema, you have to go to Ciacca which is 40 minutes away, or Agrigento, so only really the big towns have it, and that's changed. TV has changed it all, I guess, you know.

James Acaster

Well, I'm going to read your menu back to you now, see how you feel about it. You would like sparking water with ice and a squeeze of lemon. You would like light, crispy bread with your own olive oil. You would like a dressed crab with lemon, seafood sauce, cockles, and then after that, before the main, you would like burnt artichokes. Main course, tempura Dover sole from Lampara. Side dish, two cauliflower cheeses from Smiths, maybe a bit of mash. Drink, a vodka coke with ice and a slice of lemon, which you won't drink but will let you know how much you've had. You also want the Planeta, Amarone, Nero d'Avola and plenty of Rose for the whole meal.



Ray Winstone

No, Nero d'Avola is Planeta and also the Rose is. Amarone is a different wine, it comes from the north of the country, of Italy, which is further up. I think it's Vaneto, that kind of way, up there, near the Dolomites and all of that, all around that way, my son.

James Acaster

That was straight at Benito, that one.

Ed Gamble

We've all got one. We've all got one.

James Acaster

Also, Benito, please keep in earlier when you asked Ray to repeat the wine so that that has context. He won't. Dessert, you would like Ray, Ray, crème brûlée.

Ray Winstone

Love that, yes. Yes, perfecto.

James Acaster

That sounds great.

Ed Gamble

That sounds incredible.

Ray Winstone

Yes?

James Acaster

It does sound delicious.

Ray Winstone

Would you like that? Would you like that if you were-

Ed Gamble

Oh, 100%.

Ray Winstone

Good.

James Acaster

I'd absolutely eat all of that.

Ed Gamble

I mean, the Dover sole.



Ray Winstone

Yes, I'll tell you where else you get a good Dover sole, Scots.

Ed Gamble

Yes, that's a good place, that.

James Acaster

I've not been.

Ray Winstone

My favourite, favourite fish restaurant that I've been going to since I was a little kid is Smiths in Ongar.

James Acaster

I've never been to Smiths.

Ray Winstone

You've got to go.

James Acaster

The same people owned it the whole time as well?

Ray Winstone

All the time, all the family, yes. All the family, all the way through, yes.

James Acaster

Has there ever been a scene where you've had to eat loads of food in it?

Ray Winstone

Yes, I had to. I'd done a film with John Malkovich and I was sitting in a place, Peschiera I think it was in Northern Italy. I like truffle, you know, I do like a bit of truffle. I had to eat this pesto in a scene, the scene was with all this, kind of, truffle being-, after the eighth plate of that, you know. I think I went off truffle for about a year.

Ed Gamble

Yes, I'd think you would.

Ray Winstone

About a year anyway, yes, but eating scenes, you learn as you go on, you've got to be careful when you're doing eating scenes, like in Sexy Beast, sitting in The Dorchester, you know, waiting for Ian McShane. He's talking to me and I'm eating a hearty breakfast. He didn't get it right. Don't keep fluffing your words. I'm sure he was doing it on purpose. I just kept eating and eating, you know.

Ed Gamble

The worst thing, a full breakfast as well.



Ray Winstone

They have a nice breakfast in The Dorchester.

James Acaster

Yes, at least it's in the Dorchester.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much, Ray.

Ray Winstone

I've had a ball, boys, thanks very much, and great memories of food. Yes, so it's good, you know.

James Acaster

Thank you so much, Ray.

Ray Winstone

Cheers.

Ed Gamble

Well, there we are. What a treat to talk to Ray Winstone.

James Acaster

Amazing, such a lot of eye contact went on there. We each got a line said to us by Ray. That was a lot of fun.

Ed Gamble

Yes, bada bing. No damsons from Ray either.

James Acaster

No, so it means we-, I mean I don't think we could have kicked him out of the restaurant really.

Ed Gamble

No way.

James Acaster

I don't think we would have succeeded there.

Ed Gamble

No.

James Acaster

You know, I'm really glad that they didn't come up at any point.



Ed Gamble

Yes, I was just enjoying talking to him.

James Acaster

Yes, I'm looking forward to seeing Damsel which is out on March 8th on Netflix.

Ed Gamble

I'm looking forward to watching The Gentleman which is also on Netflix and is on in March, so that's next month if you're listening to this on the day it comes out. I'm on tour, Hot Diggity Dog. That starts in March as well, going all over the UK, popping over to Ireland as well, tickets at EdGamble.co.uk.

James Acaster

Hey, why not, if you're looking for a podcast to listen to after this, maybe something scripted, listen to Springleaf. Wherever you get your podcast, ten episodes, when an undercover cop plays his wire recordings for all to hear.

Ed Gamble

It's very, very good. I vouch for it.

James Acaster

Thank you, Ed.

Ed Gamble

It's very funny, very silly boy.

James Acaster

Very silly. It's very, very silly. Now, we've been sent some food, and we'd like to say thank you to those people who have sent us food because that's nice of them.

Ed Gamble

Yes. We've got some coffee. We always-,

James Acaster

I love coffee.

Ed Gamble

James loves coffee. We always like to have coffee here in the Off Menu studio for us and our guests. We've got coffee from Rising Ground. Thank you very much for sending that, and also coffee from Origin Coffee, so thank you for that too.

James Acaster

Delicious. Yes, Benito is just reminding me that I've been wearing my Rising Ground t-shirt. It's such a nice t-shirt. I get compliments on it, and then people are like, 'What is this clothing brand, Rising Ground?' I'm like, 'It's a coffee.'



Ed Gamble

You're a walking advert, baby.

James Acaster

Yes, yes, it's working, you know.

Ed Gamble

Talking of t-shirts, I wear my Prawn on the Lawn t-shirt all the time, James.

James Acaster

I love my Prawn on the-, I genuinely really love my Prawn on the Lawn t-shirt and my Prawn on the Lawn cap. I don't know what Prawn on the Lawn is.

Ed Gamble

It's a restaurant, James, in Padstow in Cornwall.

James Acaster

Well, I'll have to go there because I do love wearing the stuff.

Ed Gamble

Very good branding.

James Acaster

Everyone's always like, because it's a little prawn who's sat on, like, a lawn chair raising a glass, everyone always like, 'Ha, ha, what's this t-shirt?' I'm like, 'Prawn on the Lawn.' Benito has just told us there's always a Prawn on the Lawn in London.

Ed Gamble

Yes. Well, we've got to go. That would've been awful if we'd gone all the way to Cornwall and then discovered there's one in London as well.

James Acaster

We would have felt like fools.

Ed Gamble

You know, it'd be nice to have a trip away though.

James Acaster

Yes, always nice to have a trip away.

Ed Gamble

Beautiful part of the world. Shout-out to Maldon Salt as well.



James Acaster

Yes, I mean, that's very nice of them to send us stuff considering probably every series, someone mentions Maldon Salt on the podcast. It gets a freebie shout-out.

Ed Gamble

Yes, so thanks for sending all that. Loads of different flavours of salt, etc. Dalston's Soda, I believe you had a Dalston's Soda just then.

James Acaster

I just drank one of the ginger ones, yes. It's very, very nice with some zesty lime in there as well. I looking forward to-, I think I'm going to have the cherry one at some point even though I've already had that one. I know I like it, but, like, you know, sometimes you can't help it. You just want o go back to the stuff you know and love, I guess.

Ed Gamble

Well, thanks to all of those people for sending us bits. It always goes down well and, you know, like I say, the Christmas party here always kicks off. We've always got lots of bits.

James Acaster

There are always loads of bits and people can help themselves to the bits. I mean, like, we've put on a lovely spread.

Ed Gamble

Well, you never come.

James Acaster

No, I don't want to.

Ed Gamble

Thank you very much to Ray for coming on the podcast. Thank you very much for listening. We will see you again soon. Bye-bye.

James Acaster

Bye-bye.