

Mobile Cafe (solution)

by Ong Kah Kien

The elaborate menu descriptions clue single-word food answers, often in the context of a specific dish. As clued by the flavortext that the café is run by the “pair” of Biggs and Wedge, and that the “fare seems more extensive than it should be”, the answers in the left and right columns can be paired up to form dishes in the form of “X and Y”. As the clues in the right column are given in alphabetical order, those answers need to be reordered during the pairing to match the required ordering of the left column answers. Then using the provided indices to extract from each answer, and reading in the paired order gives the clue phrase SUBMIT SECRET RECESS MENU (so half of this phrase can be read off from extracting from the left column answers alone, confirming that ordering is the intended one). The table below summarizes the clued paired dishes (with right column descriptions and answers reordered based on the pairing), and the extracted letters:

Left column clues	Left column answers	Letter from left	Letter from right	Paired right column answers	Paired right column clues
Organic green legume seeds harvested at the peak of their tenderness and natural sweetness	PEAS	S	T	CARROTS	Garden-fresh sweet tender root vegetables, lightly sautéed to preserve the natural flavors and vibrant colors
Southern-style fluffy and crumbly soft dough bread, freshly baked	BISCUIT	U	R	GRAVY	Savory and gooey sausage sauce, made from a secret family recipe that has been passed down for generations
Three strips of crispy applewood-smoked belly, thick-cut and flawlessly grilled	BACON	B	E	EGGS	Two runny farm-fresh golden yolks sitting atop a bed of glistening whites
Bowl of short tubular elbow noodles, warm and comforting	MACARONI	M	C	CHEESE	Decadent velvety blend of aged dairy, melted to gooey perfection
Comforting glass of chilled wholesome goodness. A refreshing and nourishing drink for any time of the day	MILK	I	E	COOKIES	Two freshly-baked round chocolate-flavored confections, indulgent and satisfying
Al dente semolina noodles, topped with homemade sauce lush with the flavors of vine-ripened tomatoes and aromatic herbs	SPAGHETTI	T	S	MEATBALLS	Two succulent stewed hand-rolled spheres, made from a blend of premium cuts and exquisitely seasoned
Flaky tender fresh catch-of-the-day fillet coated in signature crispy batter, with tartar sauce	FISH	S	S	CHIPS	Generous portion of golden-brown, hand-cut fries, drizzled with zesty lemon

Left column clues	Left column answers	Letter from left	Letter from right	Paired right column answers	Paired right column clues
Bowl of ripe, juicy golden fruit slices, served chilled	PEACHES	E	M	CREAM	Luscious bed of light fluffy hand-whipped sweetened dessert, with a hint of vanilla
Three pieces of crispy deep-fried poultry. Tender, savory and full of Southern goodness.	CHICKEN	C	E	WAFFLES	Fluffy golden-brown galettes drizzled with a touch of sweet maple syrup
Slow-cooked to perfection, tender cubes and flakes of savory pancetta	PORK	R	N	BEANS	Hearty legumes in a tasty and flavorful sauce, infused with aromatic spices and a hint of sweetness
Baked artisanal bun, served fresh from the oven, warm and inviting	BREAD	E	U	BUTTER	A lavish portion of rich, smooth, churned spread

Submitting the phrase SECRET RECESS MENU for this puzzle yields an instruction for a creative submission task:

“You recall that the mobile cafe has a secret recess menu for parties taking a break from their quests, but what exactly are the items on it?”

Come up with creative and original descriptions for a 3-course menu similar to the examples in this puzzle. For each of the 3 courses, give it a name themed after each of the party members, without giving away the actual dish. Then email your secret menu to puzzlesmiths@sgpuzzlehunt.com to receive the clue to the answer for this puzzle.”

After emailing Hunt HQ with the required menu, the team will receive a new menu description: *“Healthy velvety cultured milk with a delicate balance of creamy richness and subtle tanginess in every spoonful”*

Solving this description for the clued food item gives the answer for this puzzle **YOGURT**.

Constructor’s notes:

This is the shortest puzzle in this hunt, and revolves around the simple idea of pairing clue answers (common food items in this case) in an “X and Y” format. The theme is based on the often overly-grand-sounding descriptions of dishes found in upmarket restaurant and café menus, which potentially need to be solved, to figure out what mundane food item they are actually describing. The food descriptions are partly written with the aid of ChatGPT. As usual, I wanted to incorporate a submission task in the hunt for solvers to be able to exercise their creativity and have some fun other than purely solving puzzles. So, coming up with thematic menu descriptions of their own seemed like an interesting task that should not take too long, and help provide something else engaging for solvers.