

Thanks for stopping by
The Diner near the Edge of the Galaxy

The Hot Pot at the End of the Universe Solution

By Eric Frackleton

Sprinkled through the flavor text are assorted key words pointing towards the use of the chemical elements. For starters, this includes "microscopic," "symbol," "periodically" (followed shortly by "table"), and "elementary". The friend Dmitri is a reference to Dimitri Mendeleev, a Russian chemist who was responsible for inventing one of the first modern tables for the chemical elements. Also, the date of departure is sometimes known as Mole Day, an unofficial holiday often celebrated by chemists.

The disclaimer to break up each ingredient into its smallest individual components indicates you should try to express each ingredient using atomic symbols. There are multiple ways to do this, but no matter how you do so, each ingredient contains one letter that cannot be expressed with an atomic symbol, while the rest of the ingredient's name can. Those excess letters are the impurities mentioned in the disclaimer, and when you combine these letters, you get the answer:

PORK
BeEF
DArK CHOCoLaTe
MArINaRa SAUCe
STeAK
RaSPPerRIEs
MAcArOONS
KABOBS
CRaBaPPLEs
ABAIONe
ReD WINe
CHICKEN

This gives the dessert of RED MARMALADE as the answer.