

## Mational Tabbouleh Day

In April 2001, the Lebanese artist Ricardo Mbarkho decided unilaterally that the first Saturday of July would be the National Tabbouleh Day. Right after, he informed by email thousands of Lebanese that he does not necessarily know, and invited them to spread the message everywhere in the world...

The Lebanese and foreign press released articles announcing the news. Ever since 2001, a yearly national day, celebrated the first Saturday of the month of July, is dedicated to Tabbouleh. Tabbouleh is the most famous Lebanese traditional dish, and adopted by number of gastronomes in the world. It's a dish that unites, in a country torn by wars and tensions. Like the Lebanese citizens, its delicate harmony is threatened anytime that one of its components is separated or even neglected.

The Biennale of Paris has been presenting the National Tabbouleh Day since 2006. The Lebanese Ministry of Tourism officially gave its approval and its patronage for the 2007 edition; the National Tabbouleh Day is henceforth celebrated each year by all the Lebanese. During this day, Lebanese and their friends everywhere in the world meet in private or in public around this relational dish. It's an artistic, cultural, gastronomic and touristy feast related to our quest for peace in the world and in Lebanon in particular.

Every year, a big public gathering is organized at Souk el Tayeb, where celebrations of the National Tabbouleh Day take place. At least 10 cooks, producers or visitors compete for the best tabbouleh around a crowd of people, cameras and press. The jury (made up of at least 4 members) then put their scores for each tabbouleh. The winner is rewarded the "El Tayeb" Award. Everyone would then enjoy the different tabboulehs made and feast around one table and one dish that has always united us.

