

Radisson SAS Hotel Norge
Nedre Ole Bulls Plass 4
P.O. Box 662
Bergen N-5807
Norway

Reviewed by Maggie Covalt

In December 2002, I found myself working in Bergen, Norway. It is a wonderful city (even in winter when the sun emerged a pale shadow of its North American self at 10 a.m. and ducked out of sight again at 3 p.m.), surrounded by seven mountains and seven fjords. While I was there, I ate many interesting meals... and some were good! My most memorable Norwegian meal was at the Radisson SAS Hotel Norge. It was a traditional Christmas holiday smorgasbord. The spread included the following items, not all of which made their way to my plate:

- Symphony of herring (three types with traditional condiments)
- Norwegian Christmas trout with onion and sour cream (wonderful!)
- Marinated salmon with dilled stewed potatoes
- Lutefisk with stewed yellow peas, bacon, and potato (you couldn't pay me enough to eat Lutefisk - growing up a Lutheran in Minnesota I had more than enough opportunity to do that)
- Cod baked with bacon on creamed vegetables (at this point you'll probably realize that Bergen has plentiful fresh seafood and they take advantage of that)
- Sirloin of elk with cranberries and game sauce
- Suineribbe Med Tibehor Rodkal, Svsker og svinesaus (crispy pork rib with red cabbage, prunes, and Christmas sauce)
- Pinnekjott Med Tilbehør Kalrotstappe og pinnefelt (salted, air-dried rib of lamb, steamed and served with rutabaga puree, lamb fat, and cooked potatoes)
- Christmas sausages
- For dessert, "Cream of Cloudberries" which consisted of rice cream with berry coulis and cloudberries with cream.

It was a fun way to try Norwegian traditional Christmas goodies.

My best food experience in Norway was actually at Laila Fosse's parent's home in Bergen. As many of you know, Laila was one of APTEch's engineers and her family lives in Norway. They graciously invited me into their home to sample traditional Christmas sweets and desserts. I think I tried over a dozen different treats! It really was wonderful.