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Two cities tussle over who makes the tastiest Sichuan hotpot

两座城市角角逐：谁做的四川火锅最好吃？

Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, has an ancient rivalry with Chongqing, a city to its south-east. Residents of Chongqing accuse their Chengdu cousins of being pompous. The people of Chongqing are hotheads, Chengdu dwellers shoot back. Both cities share a love of spice-laden Sichuan cuisine, which in recent decades has conquered Chinese palates. But they are at war over which has the best Sichuan hotpot—a type of DIY-cooking that involves boiling vegetables and slices of meat in a communal broth with chillies and numbing peppercorns.

四川省省会成都有一位宿敌，就是位于它东南方向的城市重庆。重庆市民控诉他们的成都兄弟浮夸自大。成都土著则反击道，重庆人都是急性子。两座城市都对满是香料的四川美食情有独钟，这种美食也在最近几十年征服了中国人的味蕾。但是现在这两座城市争得不可开交，争论焦点是哪里的四川火锅天下第一。四川火锅是一种让食客自己动手烹饪的美食，食客在一盆全桌共用的、满是辣椒和花椒粒的汤中，煮蔬菜和肉片。

A private museum in Chongqing, opened several years ago, makes the case for Chongqing-style hotpot. It describes how it developed from a method used to make cheap offcuts of meat taste delicious. But Chengdu is playing catch-up. In January the city sold a plot of land on condition that the developer build a hotpot museum on part of it. 重庆有一间私人博物馆于几年前开馆，它为重庆风格的火锅做了正面的宣传。它介绍说重庆火锅曾经只是一种将廉价的肉类边角料变得好吃的烹饪方法，并讲述了它是如何一步步发展到今天。不过成都奋起直追。今年一月，这座城市卖掉了一块土地，而购入这块土地的前提条件就是，中标的开发商需要在这片土地的某处建造一座火锅博物馆。

The two cities are among many in China with their own styles of hotpot. Hotpot restaurants in China are more profitable than other kinds, according to iiMedia, a consultancy. Haidilao, a well-known Sichuan-based hotpot chain, raised nearly \$1bn when it was listed on the Hong Kong exchange in September.

中国有许多城市拥有自己特有的火锅风格，而这两座城市就是其中之一。根据艾媒咨询（一家咨询公司）的数据，在中国，火锅餐馆比其他任何形式的餐厅都要更赚钱。去年九月，总部位于四川的著名火锅连锁店海底捞，在香港交易所上市时，筹集了将近 10 亿美金。

Not all Chinese warm to hotpot. Some older Sichuanese disown it altogether. They complain that it is causing an escalation of chilli-use in other dishes that drowns out subtle flavours.

但并不是所有的中国人都变得越来越喜欢火锅。一些老派四川人则彻底和火锅划清界限。他们抱怨说火锅的流行让其他菜系也开始加量使用辣椒，结果盖过了菜品原有的微妙的口感。

But Chengdu's plans for a museum suggest that Sichuan hotpot is not only growing in popularity, but is also becoming iconic. If it can set the West on fire, there will be plenty of glory for both Chengdu and Chongqing to bask in.

但是成都计划开设博物馆的行为表明了，四川火锅不仅仅只是越来越流行，它同时还变得越来越有（文化上的）代表性。如果火锅能够在西方走红，那无论是成都还是重庆，都将与有荣焉，如沐春风。

— The Economist: Two cities tussle over who makes the tastiest Sichuan hotpot.

重点词汇

tussle/'tʌsl/

v. 扭打，争斗

e.g.

搭配短语：tussle with sb.

搭配短语：tussle over sth.

搭配短语：a verbal tussle (n.)

rivalry/'raɪvlrɪ/

n. 对立，竞争

e.g.

英文释义：a situation in which people, businesses, etc. compete with each other for the same thing

搭配短语：rivalry with sb./sth.

搭配短语：rivalry for sth.

pompous/'pɒːmpəs/

adj. 自负的，炫耀的

e.g.

搭配短语：a pompous official

hothead/'hɒːθed/

n. 鲁莽、性急的人

e.g.

英文释义：someone who does things or reacts to things quickly and without thinking carefully first

dweller/'dwelər/

n. 居民，居住者

e.g.

近义词：resident

palate/'pælət/

n. 味觉

e.g.

英文释义：sense of taste

搭配短语：have a sharp palate

communal/kə'mjuːnl/

adj. 公用的，共用的

e.g.

英文释义：belonging to or used by a group of people rather than one single person

搭配短语：communal property

numbing/'nʌmɪŋ/

adj. 令人麻木的，使人失去知觉的

e.g.

英文释义：making you unable to feel anything

搭配短语：numbing cold

词性拓展：numb (adj.)

numb 例句：My feet grew numb.

make the/a case for sth.

为...提供支持

e.g.

英文释义：to offer support for or argue in favor of sth.

例句：Your friend has been making the case for why I should hire you.

play catch-up

追赶，奋起直追

e.g.

相关词汇：catch up

catch up 例句：He was off school for a while and is finding it hard to catch up.

plot/plɒt/

n. (故事的) 情节；阴谋诡计；小块土地

e.g.

英文释义：a small piece of land that is used or intended for a special purpose

搭配短语：a vegetable plot

consultancy/kən'sʌltənsi/

n. 咨询公司

e.g.

词性拓展：consult (v.)

consult 例句：If the pain continues, please consult a doctor.

词性拓展：consultant (n.)

consultant 英文释义：someone who advises people on a particular subject

consultant 搭配短语：the President's consultant on economic affairs

warm to

对...越来越感兴趣，对...越来越有热情

e.g.

英文释义：to become more interested in or enthusiastic about sth.

例句：I start to warm to this theme.

disown/dɪs'oʊn/

v. 与...断绝关系，和...划清界限

e.g.

例句：I will disown you.

escalation/ˌeskə'leɪʃn/

n. 迅速上升，大幅度增加

e.g.

词性拓展：escalate (v.)

例句：The price of the tickets escalates.

词性拓展：escalator (n.)

bask in

沉浸在（令人愉快的环境或气氛中）

e.g.

搭配短语：bask in sunshine