

Saigon Street Food Journal #5

This is the kind of chow which makes us smack our lips, *smack smack smack*. The kind that makes us chew with our mouths wide open, so that we can *smack* as loud as possible! The kind which sticks in our tooth gaps, so that after our meal, we sit around with a toothpick for 30 minutes, picking and sucking our teeth. Wait a second, have we gone native?



Bún Chả

It often happens in Vietnam, that you're looking at a dish, not sure what the colloidal mass floating in the bowl might be. Meat? Fish? Tofu? But no such guesswork is necessary with Bún Chả. They're little hamburgers, and they're going in my mouth! Actually, they're first going into my soup, because the Vietnamese put everything in soup and hamburgers are no exception. Once I've fished them out, and combined them with a leaf or vermicelli noodles, *then* they can go in my mouth.