Liveried

White gloves, brass buttons,
and highly polished black shoes
—
my waiter arrives
to whisk away this honeyed
jasmine-petaled kiss to thee.

www.origamipoems.com
email@origamipoems.com
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Cuisine Kisses
Karla Linn Merrifield © 2019
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A La Carte

Curried
When I add a pinch
of cayenne, I kick it up
a notch, then stir in
a smidgen more of ground cloves—
Bam!—This aromatic kiss!

Extra Virgin
This kiss is oily,
pressed from Andalusian olives.

High Tea Foreplay
This kiss takes its joy
first in scones with clotted cream
and strawberry jam,
then: your afternoon delight.

Just Dessert #1
Spindrift and seaweed
on a cold East China Sea
swirl a confection
from low in my body's core
where this kiss rises: molten.

This palateable
kiss emerged from a salad
of figs and goat cheese,
tender beetroot and walnuts—
with a splash of Muscadet.

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