Royal flush or royal pain?

21 pounds in 21 days not a good idea, some say

he allure of Martha's Vineyard and the cachet of being on Oprah's book list might intrigue those who have seen Roni DeLuz's new book, "21 Pounds in 21 Days: The Martha's Vineyard Diet Detox."

But the purge approach heralded in the 240-page tome might be more than some dieters are looking for and the premise is not universally accepted.

DeLuz, director of the Martha's Vineyard Holistic Retreat, says some people can't lose weight because of the toxins in their bodies and she offers a diet plan designed to purge them of those toxins.

Local dietitians disagree. "Weight loss happens by eating less and exercising more - not from removing toxins," says Debra Wein,



James Hestor and Roni DeLuz, co-authors of "21. Pounds in 21 Days: The Martha's Vineyard Diet Detox."

president of Sensible Nutrition Inc. in Hingham.

Wein also warns that losing 21 pounds in 21 days will result in decreased muscle mass, which will slow the body's metabolism and reduce one's chances of maintaining a healthy weight over the long

Lori Lieberman, a dietitian in

Weymouth, instead recommends setting realistic goals to manage weight and eating behavior for the long term, as opposed to following a short-term diet.

Whether you're for or against the detox, it's interesting to read about the 21-day program, which costs \$495 a day (you do the math) at DeLuz's holistic Martha's Vineyard retreat. (The book costs \$24.95.)

There's no solid food on the menu - just fresh puréed fruit and vegetables, water, enzyme capsules and nutrientrich drinks made from young "green" grains. Instead of their favorite latte, clients get coffee enemas, colon hydrotherapy, kidney, gallbladder and liver flushes and herbal cleansing drinks.

When the 21 days are over, clients must follow the sevenday transition diet or risk becoming seriously ill.

The Martha's Vineyard diet detox may be controversial, but there is common ground between the naysayers and proponents: everyone agrees there are health benefits to drinking more water, taking a half-hour walk every day, consuming leafy green vegetables and making your own fresh, low-calorie salad dressing.

- VALERIE A. RUSSO For Living Well

Recipes from the book:

Cucumber onion dressing

2 tablespoons red onion, finely chopped 2 tablespoons cucumber, finely chopped 1 pinch basil, chopped 1/4 teaspoon vegetable seasoning 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder 1 pinch cayenne pepper 1/4 cup red wine vinegar 1/2 teaspoon essential

fatty acid Purée all ingredients in blender until smooth. Chill before serving.

Spicy mustard dressing

Bridgewater Goddard Park Medical Associates, Inc.

1/4 teaspoon Bragg's liquid amino acid

2 tablespoons spicy rice vinegar 2 teaspoons organic mustard Plain nonfat yogurt to taste

1 pinch stevia

To Bragg's rice vinegar and mustard, add yogurt until creamy; add stevia to taste. Chill before serving.

Sweet and sour carrot dressing

1/4 cup red wine vinegar 1/4 cup carrot juice 1/4 cup tomatoes, mashed 1 teaspoon lemon iuice

1 pinch paprika 2 packs stevia

Purée all ingredients in blender until smooth. Chill before serving.

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