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Kitchen Gypsy: Recipes And Stories From A Lifelong Romance With Food (Sunset)



Synopsis

From the beloved host and producer of PBS series Joanne Weir's *Cooking Confidence* and *Joanne Weir Gets Fresh*. "Joanne's infectious enthusiasm...draws readers effortlessly into a new and beautiful relationship to food." - Alice Waters

Chef, cooking instructor, and PBS television host Joanne Weir has inspired legions of home cooks with her signature California-Mediterranean cuisine and warm, engaging style. In *Kitchen Gypsy*, the James Beard Award-winning author offers a taste of the people, places, and flavors that have inspired her throughout the years. With refreshing honesty and humor, Joanne shares the spark that led to her love of cooking, how she learned to taste and develop a palate, the meal that would forever change her life, her years working with Alice Waters at Chez Panisse during the beginning of the farm-to-table movement, and her continued travels teaching cooking classes the world over. Throughout, she offers the cherished dishes and lessons that have shaped her culinary journey, from the 140-year-old Lighting Cake recipe handed down from her great-grandmother to the luxurious Beef Roulade with Mushrooms and Garlic perfected during her Master Chef training in France, and the approachable, globally-inspired dishes, like Fried Pork Belly Tacos and Autumn Salad with Figs and Pomegranate, that have made her a favorite of home cooks. Lushly illustrated with full-color photographs, *Kitchen Gypsy* is both an inspirational cooking resource and an armchair read, offering recipes made to be shared and savored against the colorful backdrop of Weir's evocative writing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a gem of a book. Part cookbook, part memoir - it takes you through the author's journey from her childhood memories of the food she loved then to the food she cooked in kitchens, both humble and challenging, along the way to becoming a culinary celebrity in her own right. One does not have to be terribly familiar with Joanne Weir to enjoy the stories in this book because it turns out that Weir crafts prose as deftly as she crafts her recipes. The book is beautiful designed - more like a carefully kept scrapbook than anything - and it starts out with Weir's childhood. One of the first recipes in the book is one for a simple tomato sandwich, but her description how particular her mother was, even about making the simplest things to eat, will have you baking your best bread and whisking up homemade mayonnaise to pair with the ripest tomatoes you can find so that you, too, can experience what brilliance there is to be found in a simple tomato sandwich. From there, Weir's experiences include stints with the infamously demanding Madeleine Kamman, to working at Chez Panisse where she watched the California food movement unfold, to discovering new and exciting flavors on trips abroad, and finally to opening her own restaurant. She documents her tales with the very special recipes she learned and developed along the way. Although there are many recipes with ingredients that may be difficult to find outside of major cities, there are enough recipes with easily obtainable ingredients to make the book entirely worthwhile. Who makes every recipe in a cookbook anyway? Weir's recipes, even the most ambitious ones, are accessible because of the tremendous amount of detail in the instructions.

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