

the big fat duck cookbook

The Big Fat Duck Cookbook: A Culinary Masterpiece for Food Enthusiasts

The Big Fat Duck Cookbook is widely regarded as one of the most influential and innovative cookbooks in modern gastronomy. Authored by the legendary Heston Blumenthal, the book offers an in-depth look into the culinary philosophies and techniques that have made The Fat Duck restaurant a world-renowned destination for food lovers. Whether you're a professional chef or an avid home cook, this cookbook provides a wealth of knowledge, creative recipes, and fascinating insights into the art of cooking. In this article, we will explore the key features of The Big Fat Duck Cookbook, its unique approach to culinary innovation, and how it can elevate your cooking skills.

Overview of The Big Fat Duck Cookbook

The Big Fat Duck Cookbook is not just a collection of recipes; it's a comprehensive guide that reflects Heston Blumenthal's experimental approach to cuisine. Published in 2008, the book showcases dishes inspired by scientific principles, historical gastronomy, and avant-garde techniques. It aims to push the boundaries of traditional cooking and inspire chefs to think outside the box.

Author and Inspiration

Heston Blumenthal's background in science and his passion for culinary innovation are evident throughout the book. Drawing inspiration from:

- Historical recipes and ancient culinary techniques
- Scientific experiments and flavor pairings
- Modernist culinary movements

The result is a cookbook that challenges conventional cooking norms and encourages experimentation.

Design and Layout

The Big Fat Duck Cookbook features:

- Detailed step-by-step instructions with photographs
- Scientific explanations of techniques used
- High-quality visuals that showcase the dishes' artistry

- Insights into the thought process behind each recipe

This design makes it accessible for both culinary professionals and enthusiastic home cooks eager to learn.

Unique Features of The Big Fat Duck Cookbook

What sets this cookbook apart from others is its combination of science, art, and culinary storytelling. Here are some of its standout features:

Innovative Recipes and Techniques

The book introduces readers to groundbreaking methods such as:

- Liquid nitrogen ice creams
- Foams and airs for texture enhancement
- Sous-vide cooking for precision
- Deconstruction of classic dishes

These techniques not only produce stunning visual presentations but also create new flavor and texture combinations.

Emphasis on Scientific Approach

A core aspect of the cookbook is its focus on understanding the science behind cooking. For example:

- How temperature affects proteins and flavors
- The chemistry of emulsions and foams
- Flavor pairing theories based on molecular compatibility

This scientific mindset allows cooks to experiment confidently and innovate safely in the kitchen.

Focus on Sensory Experience

Blumenthal emphasizes the importance of engaging all senses, leading to dishes that:

- Surprise and delight with unexpected textures

- Play with visual illusions and presentation
- Enhance aroma and taste interactions

The goal is to create memorable dining experiences that challenge perceptions.

Popular Recipes from The Big Fat Duck Cookbook

While the cookbook contains numerous recipes, some have gained particular acclaim for their ingenuity and flavor profiles.

Snail Porridge

A signature dish that combines earthy snails with creamy porridge and truffle oil, offering a comforting yet sophisticated flavor.

Sound of the Sea

An avant-garde seafood dish that incorporates edible seaweed and sea elements to evoke the ocean's essence.

Deep-Fried Tea Bags

A playful dessert where tea bags are coated in batter and fried, releasing aromatic flavors and creating a surprising sensory experience.

Meat Fruit (Mandarin Quenelle)

A visually stunning dish resembling a mandarin, made with pâté and mousse, showcasing Blumenthal's mastery in presentation and flavor layering.

How to Use The Big Fat Duck Cookbook for Cooking Inspiration

This cookbook is more than just a recipe collection; it's a source of inspiration for culinary exploration. Here's how to make the most of it:

Study the Techniques

Before attempting complex dishes, familiarize yourself with the scientific principles and techniques described. Practice:

- Creating foams and airs
- Mastering sous-vide cooking
- Working with liquid nitrogen safely

Start with Simpler Recipes

Ease into the innovative approach by trying recipes that require less technical skill, gradually working up to more complex creations.

Experiment and Personalize

Use the recipes as a starting point, then modify ingredients or presentation to suit your taste and available tools. This encourages creativity and personalization.

Understand the Science

Read the scientific explanations to grasp why certain techniques work, empowering you to troubleshoot and innovate independently.

Benefits of Owning The Big Fat Duck Cookbook

Investing in this cookbook offers numerous advantages:

- Deepens understanding of modernist culinary techniques
- Enhances creativity and presentation skills
- Provides inspiration for menu development
- Offers a glimpse into the philosophy of a Michelin-starred restaurant
- Serves as a collector's item for culinary enthusiasts

Where to Buy The Big Fat Duck Cookbook

The book is available through various outlets:

- Online bookstores such as Amazon and Book Depository

- Specialty culinary shops
- Directly from the publisher's website

Prices may vary depending on editions and condition, but the value it provides makes it a worthwhile investment for serious cooks.

Conclusion

The Big Fat Duck Cookbook stands as a testament to Heston Blumenthal's innovative spirit and dedication to elevating the culinary arts. With its blend of scientific insight, artistic presentation, and inventive recipes, it serves as both a practical guide and an inspiration for pushing culinary boundaries. Whether you aspire to recreate signature dishes like Snail Porridge or explore new cooking techniques, this cookbook is an essential resource for anyone passionate about gastronomy. Embrace the challenge, experiment fearlessly, and let The Big Fat Duck Cookbook transform your approach to cooking into a creative and scientific adventure.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Big Fat Duck Cookbook' about?

'The Big Fat Duck Cookbook' is a comprehensive collection of recipes, techniques, and stories from the renowned restaurant The Fat Duck, showcasing innovative culinary creations and experimental cooking methods.

Who is the author of 'The Big Fat Duck Cookbook'?

The cookbook is authored by Heston Blumenthal, the acclaimed chef behind The Fat Duck restaurant.

Is 'The Big Fat Duck Cookbook' suitable for home cooks?

While the book features complex and avant-garde recipes from a professional kitchen, it also offers insights and techniques that passionate home cooks can explore, though some recipes may require specialized equipment.

What are some signature dishes featured in 'The Big Fat Duck Cookbook'?

The book includes recipes for famous dishes like Bacon and Egg Ice Cream, Sound of the Sea, and Liquid Nitrogen Mango, among others.

Does 'The Big Fat Duck Cookbook' include photographs?

Yes, it features stunning photographs that illustrate the dishes, techniques, and behind-the-scenes moments from the restaurant.

Are there vegetarian or vegan options in 'The Big Fat Duck Cookbook'?

While primarily focused on innovative and often meat-based dishes, the cookbook does include some vegetarian options, but vegan recipes are limited due to the nature of the cuisine.

How is 'The Big Fat Duck Cookbook' different from other culinary books?

It stands out for its scientific approach to cooking, playful presentation, and the inclusion of experimental techniques like foams, spherification, and liquid nitrogen, reflecting Heston Blumenthal's signature style.

Can I learn molecular gastronomy from 'The Big Fat Duck Cookbook'?

Yes, the book provides detailed explanations and recipes that introduce readers to molecular gastronomy techniques used at The Fat Duck.

Is 'The Big Fat Duck Cookbook' suitable for beginners?

While it offers valuable insights, many recipes are complex and best suited for experienced cooks or those eager to experiment with advanced techniques.

Where can I purchase 'The Big Fat Duck Cookbook'?

The cookbook is available through major booksellers, both online and in physical stores, including Amazon, specialized culinary bookstores, and the official Fat Duck website.

Additional Resources

The Big Fat Duck Cookbook: An In-Depth Exploration of Culinary Innovation and Artistic Excellence

When it comes to pushing the boundaries of modern gastronomy, few titles stand out as prominently as The Big Fat Duck Cookbook. This seminal work, authored by Heston Blumenthal—one of the most influential chefs of our time—serves not only as a collection of recipes but also as a comprehensive manifesto of scientific culinary experimentation, artistic presentation, and sensory exploration. In this guide, we'll delve into the origins, core philosophies, signature dishes, and the innovative techniques that make The Big Fat Duck Cookbook a must-have for culinary enthusiasts and professional chefs alike.

Introduction to The Big Fat Duck and Its Cultural Significance

The Big Fat Duck Cookbook is much more than a traditional recipe compendium. It embodies Heston Blumenthal's pioneering approach to cooking, which marries science, creativity, and tradition. Published in 2012 following the restaurant's renowned tenure in Bray, England, the book captures the essence of Blumenthal's avant-garde culinary philosophy, offering readers a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process behind the restaurant The Fat Duck, which has earned multiple Michelin stars and worldwide acclaim.

This cookbook is a reflection of Blumenthal's dedication to transforming everyday ingredients into extraordinary culinary experiences. It stands as a testament to the idea that food can be both an art form and a scientific experiment, challenging conventional notions of taste and presentation.

The Philosophical Foundations of The Big Fat Duck Cookbook

Scientific Approach to Cooking

At its core, The Big Fat Duck Cookbook emphasizes the importance of understanding the science behind ingredients and techniques. Blumenthal advocates for a meticulous, experimental mindset where traditional recipes are deconstructed and reimaged through research and innovation.

Key principles include:

- Molecular Gastronomy: Applying scientific principles to manipulate the physical and chemical properties of food.
- Precision: Using precise measurements and controlled techniques to achieve desired textures and flavors.
- Innovation: Constantly experimenting with new methods, flavors, and presentations to surprise and delight diners.

Artistic Presentation and Sensory Engagement

Blumenthal's work underscores the importance of engaging all senses. The book features dishes that are as visually stunning as they are delicious, often incorporating playful elements such as unexpected textures, temperature contrasts, and visual illusions.

Core ideas:

- Food as a multisensory experience
- Visual storytelling through plating
- Creating memorable dining moments that evoke emotion

Signature Dishes and Techniques Explored in the Book

The Big Fat Duck Cookbook features a curated selection of dishes that exemplify Blumenthal's innovative approach. Each recipe is accompanied by detailed explanations, scientific insights, and step-by-step instructions.

Notable Dishes

1. Nitro-Scrambled Egg and Bacon Ice Cream: Combines traditional breakfast flavors with modern techniques like liquid nitrogen to create a cold, creamy dessert that mimics scrambled eggs.
2. Sound of the Sea: An edible dish that captures the essence of the ocean, featuring edible seaweed, shellfish, and foams that evoke the soundscape of the sea.
3. Snail Porridge: A playful take on comfort food, integrating the umami-rich flavor of snails with a textured, porridge-like presentation.
4. Bacon and Egg Ice Cream: An innovative dessert that balances smoky, savory flavors with a smooth, cold ice cream base.

Techniques Highlighted

- Sous Vide Cooking: Precise temperature control to ensure perfect textures.
- Spherification: Creating small spheres that mimic the appearance and texture of caviar or other liquids.
- Foams and Emulsions: Adding aerated textures to dishes for visual and tactile interest.
- Temperature Manipulation: Using specific temperatures to alter the flavor profile and texture of ingredients.

How to Approach Cooking from The Big Fat Duck Perspective

For home cooks and professionals inspired by The Big Fat Duck Cookbook, adopting Blumenthal's mindset involves embracing experimentation, precision, and storytelling through food.

Practical Tips

- Start Small: Experiment with one or two techniques at a time, such as spherification or sous vide.
- Invest in Equipment: Tools like immersion circulators, nitrogen dispensers, and pipettes can open new possibilities.
- Understand Ingredients: Study how different ingredients behave under various conditions to manipulate flavors and textures.
- Document Your Process: Keep detailed notes and photographs to refine techniques and develop your style.
- Focus on Presentation: Think of plating as a canvas—use color, shape, and space intentionally.

The Impact of The Big Fat Duck Cookbook on Modern Cuisine

The Big Fat Duck Cookbook has played a significant role in elevating molecular gastronomy

from experimental novelty to mainstream culinary practice. Its influence can be seen across the culinary world, inspiring chefs to think creatively about flavor combinations, textures, and presentation.

Key impacts include:

- Encouraging a scientific approach in culinary education.
- Popularizing techniques like spherification and foam creation.
- Bridging the gap between art and science in the kitchen.
- Inspiring a new generation of chefs to challenge culinary conventions.

Critical Reception and Legacy

The book has been praised for its clarity, innovation, and artistic vision. Critics often highlight its ability to blend technical instruction with storytelling, making complex concepts accessible without sacrificing depth.

Notable accolades:

- Recognition as a comprehensive guide to avant-garde cuisine.
- Its role as an educational tool for aspiring molecular gastronomists.
- The influence it has had on culinary literature and practice.

Conclusion: Why The Big Fat Duck Cookbook Remains a Landmark

In conclusion, The Big Fat Duck Cookbook is not merely a collection of recipes but a manifesto of culinary artistry rooted in scientific inquiry. It challenges chefs and home cooks alike to think differently about ingredients, techniques, and presentation. Whether you're an aspiring molecular gastronomist or simply a curious foodie, this book offers a wealth of inspiration, knowledge, and artistry that continues to shape the future of cuisine.

If you're ready to embark on a culinary adventure that blurs the lines between science and art, The Big Fat Duck Cookbook is an essential addition to your library—an invitation to see food not just as sustenance but as an extraordinary canvas for innovation.

[The Big Fat Duck Cookbook](#)

the big fat duck cookbook: The Fat Duck Cookbook Heston Blumenthal, 2009 The most eagerly awaited restaurant book of the last decade

the big fat duck cookbook: The Big Fat Duck Cookbook Heston Blumenthal, 2008-11-16 In August 1995 self-taught chef Heston Blumenthal opened the Fat Duck restaurant, which gained three Michelin stars in January 2004 when Heston was only thirty-seven-years old. In April 2005 the Fat Duck received worldwide recognition for its unique approach to gastronomy and was proclaimed The Best Restaurant in the world by the 50 Best Academy of over 600 international food critics, journalists and chefs. This lavishly-illustrated, stunningly-designed, and gorgeously-photographed masterpiece will take you inside the head of the world's most maverick restaurateur. The Fat Duck

Book will be carefully separated into the following three sections: Part I, History: Heston's improbable background and the unorthodox path he took to achieve his goal; his early ideas and early days running The Fat Duck, as well as his philosophy for what a food should be and what a chef's responsibility is in forwarding cuisine. Part II, Recipes: For the first time ever, a large selection of recipes from the award-winning restaurant. Some are broken down into their many component parts, but they will remain very cheffy. Part III, Science: The science of it all, the technology and implements that make the dishes work. Various food scientists and taste experts will contribute to this section. It will be a foodie's dream to open up The Fat Duck Book and discover just what goes on in the head of one of the world's most famous chefs. How did he come up with the idea to open The Fat Duck? What book made him fascinated with cooking and the idea of opening a restaurant? How does he make dishes involving cans of nitrous not just delicious, but even comforting? And just what are his plans for the future...

the big fat duck cookbook: Heston Blumenthal - The Biography of the World's Most Brilliant Master Chef, 2012-04-19 Celebrity chef Heston Blumenthal is the man who turned the world of cuisine on its head and became a national hero with an OBE and three Michelin stars. This is the full inspirational story of the self taught genius, from a life-changing childhood holiday in France, through to his brief apprenticeship in Raymond Blanc's restaurant. Heston is a gastronomic alchemist who sees the kitchen as a laboratory where he loves to experiment for the new ways to tantalise the taste-buds of diners at his legendary Fat Duck restaurant and the newly opened Dinner at the Mandarin Oriental. Taking a look behind the scenes of Heston's hit television shows including In Search of Perfection and Big Chef Takes on Little Chef, this book shows what drives this remarkable man. With signature dishes including snail porridge and egg and bacon ice cream Heston Blumenthal is an intriguing and bizarre chef. Appearing in a number of TV shows his unique style of cooking is well known, however very little is known about the man himself.

the big fat duck cookbook: Thalamus: The Art of Dave McKean Slipcased Set Dave McKean, 2023-11-28 Dark Horse Books proudly presents this two-volume hardcover artbook collection showcasing the work of the legendary artist Dave McKean, who has created some of the most iconic images in modern comics, literature, film, and music. Featuring his visually-stunning work from Neil Gaiman's The Sandman, Mirrormask, Arkham Asylum, Cages, Black Dog, Raptor, and so much more, as well as artwork featured in prose publications, film, music, and never-before-seen bonus material with commentary by Dave McKean. This deluxe two-volume set is collected into a gorgeous slipcase featuring original artwork by McKean, also including a satin ribbon marker in each volume, and a foreword by David Boyd Haycock.

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the big fat duck cookbook: Drinks Tony Conigliaro, 2014-12-18 Cocktails are back in a big way - but no more '2 for 1' Tequila Sunrises. Today's cocktails are a sensory experience, concocted by experts on taste and aroma - and none is more expert than Tony Conigliaro, expert alchemist and award-winning barman. Drinks is a stunning contemporary cocktail guide, which nods to the history of the cocktail and updates 50 classic cocktail recipes in astonishing and original ways. Tony's spins on the classics include Vintage Manhattan (using aged bourbon), new classics of his own invention (the Twinkle, now on cocktail menus the world over), drinks based on their perfume (Lipstick Rose, inspired by perfumer Ralf Schwieger's creation for Frederic Malle), fruit-based culinary creations (Sweet Grilled Lemon Margarita and Nettle Gimlet) and groundbreaking savoury drinks (White Truffle Martini). Beautifully photographed with easy recipes and fascinating descriptions of their inspiration and creation, and with a guide to the equipment you will need to make your own libations at home, Drinks will revolutionise the art of the cocktail.

the big fat duck cookbook: A Taste of the Science of Eating Garmt Dijksterhuis, 2024-08-06 Why do you taste what you taste, and what about smelling? Many books address good food, but few go deeper, explaining the processes behind smelling and tasting. The book addresses the senses of smell and taste and the many more senses and their interactions during eating. It also stresses the importance of psychology when you smell, taste and eat. Some of the other topics include flavour, the working of the nose and olfactory (cross-)adaptation, the use of odorants, the relation between emotion and eating, and many more. The book helps you understand why you like and eat food, and shows the intriguing complexity of the area.

the big fat duck cookbook: Eat, Cook, Grow Jaz Hee-jeong Choi, Marcus Foth, Greg Hearn, 2014-03-27 Tools, interfaces, methods, and practices that can help bring about a healthy, socially inclusive, and sustainable food future. Our contemporary concerns about food range from food security to agricultural sustainability to getting dinner on the table for family and friends. This book investigates food issues as they intersect with participatory Internet culture—blogs, wikis, online photo- and video-sharing platforms, and social networks—in efforts to bring about a healthy, socially inclusive, and sustainable food future. Focusing on our urban environments provisioned with digital and network capacities, and drawing on such “bottom-up” sociotechnical trends as DIY and open source, the chapters describe engagements with food and technology that engender (re-)creative interactions. In the first section, “Eat,” contributors discuss technology-aided approaches to sustainable dining, including digital communication between farmers and urban consumers and a “telematic” dinner party at which guests are present electronically. The chapters in “Cook” describe, among other things, “smart” chopping boards that encourage mindful eating and a website that supports urban wild fruit foraging. Finally, “Grow” connects human-computer interaction with achieving a secure, safe, and ethical food supply, offering chapters on the use of interactive technologies in urban agriculture, efforts to trace the provenance of food with a “Fair Tracing” tool, and other projects. Contributors Joon Sang Baek, Pollie Barden, Eric P. S. Baumer, Eli Blevis, Nick Bryan-Kinns, Robert Comber, Jean Duruz, Katharina Frosch, Anne Galloway, Geri Gay, Jordan Geiger, Gijs Geleijnse, Nina Gros, Penny Hagen, Megan Halpern, Greg Hearn, Tad Hirsch, Jettie Hoonhout, Denise Kera, Vera Khovanskaya, Ann Light, Bernt Meerbeek, William Odom, Kenton O'Hara, Charles Spence, Mirjam Struppek, Esther Toet, Marc Tuters, Katharine S. Willis, David L. Wright, Grant Young

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products or perfumed consumer articles; and they play an important role in atmospheric chemistry. This book takes an interdisciplinary approach to volatile molecules. Review-style introductions to the main topics in volatile chemistry and biology are provided by international experts, building into a broad overview of this fascinating field. Topics covered include: The structural variety of volatile compounds Biogenesis of volatiles Synthesis of natural and non-natural volatiles Analysis of volatiles Volatile compounds as semiochemicals in plant-plant or plant-insect interactions Volatiles in pest control Pheromones and the influence of volatiles on mammals Olfaction and human perception Volatiles as fragrances The generation of flavours and food aroma compounds Stabilisation and controlled release of volatiles The impact of volatiles on the environment and the atmosphere

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the big fat duck cookbook: My Ideal Bookshelf Thessaly La Force, 2012-11-13 The books that we choose to keep -- let alone read -- can say a lot about who we are and how we see ourselves. In *My Ideal Bookshelf*, dozens of leading cultural figures share the books that matter to them most; books that define their dreams and ambitions and in many cases helped them find their way in the world. Contributors include Malcolm Gladwell, Thomas Keller, Michael Chabon, Alice Waters, James Patterson, Maira Kalman, Judd Apatow, Chuck Klosterman, Miranda July, Alex Ross, Nancy Pearl, David Chang, Patti Smith, Jennifer Egan, and Dave Eggers, among many others. With colorful and endearingly hand-rendered images of book spines by Jane Mount, and first-person commentary from all the contributors, this is a perfect gift for avid readers, writers, and all who have known the influence of a great book.

the big fat duck cookbook: The Perfect Meal Charles Spence, Betina Piqueras-Fiszman, 2014-09-22 The authors of *The Perfect Meal* examine all of the elements that contribute to the diners experience of a meal (primarily at a restaurant) and investigate how each of the diners senses contributes to their overall multisensory experience. The principal focus of the book is not on flavor perception, but on all of the non-food and beverage factors that have been shown to influence the diners overall experience. Examples are: the colour of the plate (visual) the shape of the glass (visual/tactile) the names used to describe the dishes (cognitive) the background music playing inside the restaurant (aural) Novel approaches to understanding the diners experience in the restaurant setting are explored from the perspectives of decision neuroscience, marketing, design, and psychology. 2015 Popular Science Prose Award Winner.

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hold these secret snacks and naughty nibbles so dear to our hearts. Exploring her go-to comfort foods through a series of joyous encounters, Grace reflects on the memories they uncover and pays tribute to her parents, the people who taught her what comfort eating truly means. Along the way, she catches up with some famous friends to chat about their own favourites - from Jo Brand's fried bread sandwich and Russell T. Davies' 'butterpepperrice' to Scarlett Moffat's crushed-Wotsits-topped beans on toast and many, many more . . . So grab a plate and pull up a chair: unfussy, honest and filled to the brim with heartwarming stories and comfort food tales, *Comfort Eating* is the perfect treat for food lovers everywhere. *** 'The restaurant critic's exploration of the delicious things we snack on is shot through with nostalgia for childhood, family and home . . . her humour [is] tweezer-sharp and the writing as strong as a Christmas stilton.' NELL FRIZELL, *GUARDIAN* ' *Comfort Eating* will leave you craving second helpings and will make you laugh and think at almost every turn . . . This might be the sanest thing anyone has ever written about eating for pleasure.' *IRISH TIMES*

the big fat duck cookbook: *Sensory Nudges* Han-Seok Seo, Mariola Staniak, 2021-09-09 Cake products with highly acceptable flavor and mouthfeel are not always successful in the marketplace. Sales of identical cake products sold in two different bakery shops often differ. Patrons' choices of specific cake items differ depending on menu designs at restaurants. Such examples suggest that consumer behavior related to eating, preparing, or purchasing foods and beverages is typically complex, dynamic, and sensitive to environmental cues surrounding them. The nine original research articles and two systematic review articles addressed in this book provide recent informative and insightful findings on how sensory cues related to eating/drinking environmental contexts can serve as "sensory nudges" that induce healthy eating and drinking along with consumer satisfaction.

the big fat duck cookbook: *The Elements of Dessert* Francisco J. Migoya, The Culinary Institute of America (CIA), 2012-11-05 In *The Elements of Dessert*, renowned pastry chef Francisco Migoya, professor at The Culinary Institute of America, takes you on a guided tour through the innovative flavors, ingredients, and techniques in the thrilling world of desserts. He begins with the fundamental elements—such as mousses, doughs, and ganaches-- revealing in each recipe how to incorporate these building blocks into inventive, unforgettable delicacies. Chef Migoya then explores basic pastry methods and dessert and menu composition principles in 200 recipes and variations in the essential groups of pre-desserts, plated desserts, dessert buffets, passed-around desserts, and cakes and petits fours. Inspirational and instructive photographs display steps, techniques, and finished desserts.

the big fat duck cookbook: *Taste Matters* John Prescott, 2013-02-15 The human tongue has somewhere up to eight thousand taste buds to inform us when something is sweet, salty, sour, or bitter—or as we usually think of it—delicious or revolting. Tastes differ from one region to the next, and no two people's seem to be the same. But why is it that some people think maple syrup is too sweet, while others can't get enough? What makes certain people love Roquefort cheese and others think it smells like feet? Why do some people think cilantro tastes like soap? John Prescott tackles this conundrum in *Taste Matters*, an absorbing exploration of why we eat and seek out the foods that we do. Prescott surveys the many factors that affect taste, including genetic inheritance, maternal diet, cultural traditions, and physiological influences. He also delves into what happens when we eat for pleasure instead of nutrition, paying particularly attention to affluent Western societies, where, he argues, people increasingly view food selection as a sensory or intellectual pleasure rather than a means of survival. As obesity and high blood pressure are on the rise along with a number of other health issues, changes in the modern diet are very much to blame, and Prescott seeks to answer the question of why and how our tastes often lead us to eat foods that are not the best for our health. Compelling and accessible, this timely book paves the way for a healthier and more sustainable understanding of taste.

the big fat duck cookbook: *Steal the Menu* Raymond Sokolov, 2014-02-11 Part autobiography, part culinary history, *Steal the Menu* is former New York Times food editor Raymond

Sokolov's account of four decades of eating. From his pathbreaking dispatches on nouvelle cuisine in France to finding top-notch Chinese dishes at a New Jersey gas station to picking the brain of the most Michelin-starred chef in the world, Sokolov captures the colorful characters and mouth watering meals that define food today. Throughout, he shares a lifetime of personal anecdotes, including infuriating President Nixon's daughter over a wedding cake, as well as prescient observations on one of the most tumultuous—and exciting—periods in gastronomic history.

the big fat duck cookbook: *Multisensory Flavor Perception* Betina Piqueras-Fiszman, Charles Spence, 2016-04-14 *Multisensory Flavor Perception: From Fundamental Neuroscience Through to the Marketplace* provides state-of-the-art coverage of the latest insights from the rapidly-expanding world of multisensory flavor research. The book highlights the various types of crossmodal interactions, such as sound and taste, and vision and taste, showing their impact on sensory and hedonic perception, along with their consumption in the context of food and drink. The chapters in this edited volume review the existing literature, also explaining the underlying neural and psychological mechanisms which lead to crossmodal perception of flavor. The book brings together research which has not been presented before, making it the first book in the market to cover the literature of multisensory flavor perception by incorporating the latest in psychophysics and neuroscience. - Authored by top academics and world leaders in the field - Takes readers on a journey from the neurological underpinnings of multisensory flavor perception, then presenting insights that can be used by food companies to create better flavor sensations for consumers - Offers a wide perspective on multisensory flavor perception, an area of rapidly expanding knowledge

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