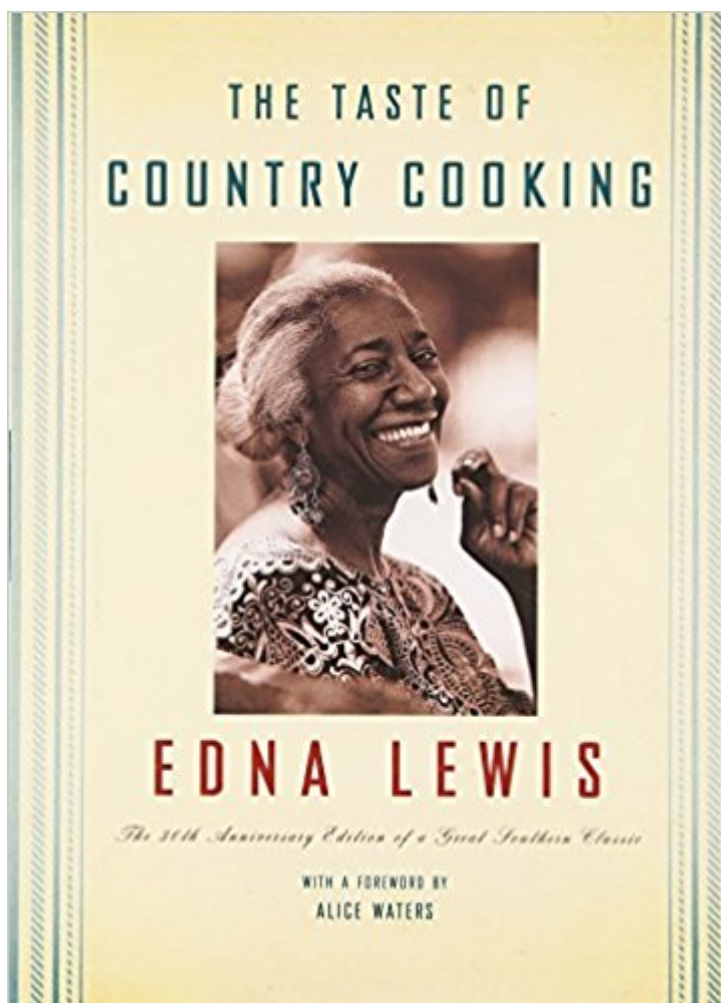


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The Taste Of Country Cooking: 30th Anniversary Edition



Synopsis

In recipes and reminiscences equally delicious, Edna Lewis celebrates the uniquely American country cooking she grew up with some fifty years ago in a small Virginia Piedmont farming community that had been settled by freed slaves. With menus for the four seasons, she shares the ways her family prepared and enjoyed food, savoring the delights of each special time of year:â€¢ The fresh taste of springâ€¢ the first shad, wild mushrooms, garden strawberries, field greens and salads . . . honey from woodland bees . . . a ring mold of chicken with wild mushroom sauce . . . the treat of braised mutton after sheepshearing.â€¢ The feasts of summerâ€¢ garden-ripe vegetables and fruits relished at the peak of flavor . . . pan-fried chicken, sage-flavored pork tenderloin, spicy baked tomatoes, corn pudding, fresh blackberry cobbler, and more, for hungry neighbors on Wheat-Threshing Day . . . Sunday Revival, the event of the year, when Ednaâ€™s mother would pack up as many as fifteen dishes (what with her pickles and breads and pies) to be spread out on linen-covered picnic tables under the churchâ€™s shady oaks . . . hot afternoons cooled with a bowl of crushed peaches or hand-cranked custard ice cream.â€¢ The harvest of fallâ€¢ a fine dinner of baked country ham, roasted newly dug sweet potatoes, and warm apple pie after a day of corn-shucking . . . the hunting season, with the deliciously â€œdifferentâ€• taste of game fattened on hickory nuts and persimmons . . . hog-butcher time and the making of sausages and liver pudding . . . and Emancipation Day with its rich and generous thanksgiving dinner.â€¢ The hearty fare of winterâ€¢ holiday time, the sideboard laden with all the special foods of Christmas for company dropping by . . . the cold months warmed by stews, soups, and baked beans cooked in a hearth oven to be eaten with hot crusty bread before the fire. The scores of recipes for these marvelous dishes are set down in loving detail. We come to understand the values that formed the remarkable womanâ€¢ her love of nature, the pleasure of living with the seasons, the sense of community, the satisfactory feeling that hard work was always rewarded by her motherâ€™s good food. Having made us yearn for all the good meals she describes in her memories of a lost time in America, Edna Lewis shows us precisely how to recover, in our own country or city or suburban kitchens, the taste of the fresh, good, natural country cooking that was so happy a part of her girlhood in Freetown, Virginia.

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Customer Reviews

The recipes and reminiscences of the American country cooking Lewis grew up with some 50 years ago. A richly evocative memoir of a lost time and a practical guide to recovering its joys in your own kitchen.

Edna Lewis died on February 6, 2006, at the age of eighty-nine. This commemorative edition contains a new preface from her editor, Judith Jones, and a foreword by Alice Waters.

A beautiful memoir and cookbook in one. I bought it to give as a birthday gift to my sister, but had to read it myself first. Fascinating. Heartwarming.

A wonderful progression of simple food through the seasons by a wonderful chef. This is American cooking at it best.

What a wonderful read this was. The stories included are so richly written.

Fabulous cookbook and history lesson. She was one of a kind.

I'm enjoying her old fashioned recipes. Everything tastes better. Packaged and Take out are over rated and unhealthy.

Wonderful writer. She describes her early life and culinary habits in South Carolina and mixes little stories in for perfect recipes.

Amazing recipes, highly recommended

I have had this "story" cook book for many, many years and had to buy another one for a daughter who also loved reading Edna Lewis story plus recipes! The strawberry jam is so, so good!

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