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PHOTOGRAPHY BY Victoria Wall Harris FOOD STYLING BY Vivian Lui PROP STYLING BY Scott Horne

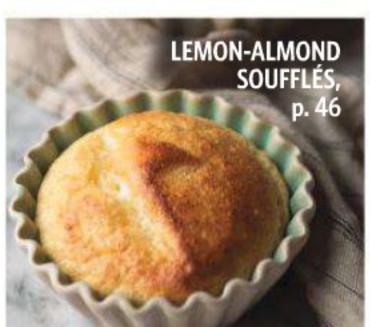




FAB 5

CAN'T DECIDE WHAT TO MAKE TONIGHT? HERE ARE OUR FIVE FAVORITE RECIPES FROM THIS ISSUE:

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weekend cooking blitz

One of VT's most popular articles last year was "Cook Up a Storm" (March 2013, p. 54). In it, we laid out a step-by-step plan for creating several healthful dinners in one weekend afternoon. You could then stash the meals in the fridge or freezer for the busy nights ahead.

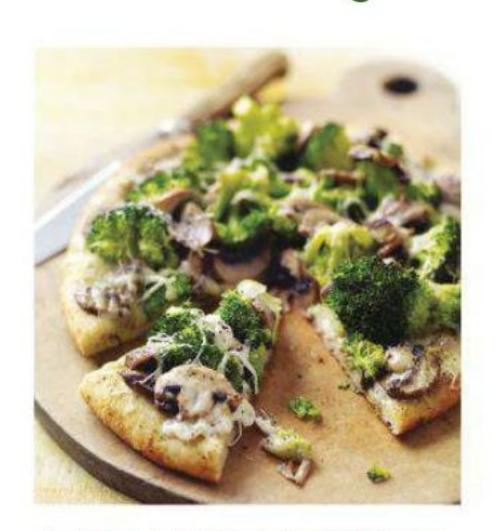
We got so many love letters for that story that we decided to double down on the concept for this issue. Think of "The Buddy System" (p. 66) as Cook Up a Storm, Part Deux: Tag-Team Edition. This time the plan has you team up with a pal for a two-hour, VT-guided cooking blitz. You'll each come away with a few laughs, some new skills, and four fridge- and freezer-friendly entrées: a hearty black bean posole, an elegant endive gratin, a batch of zesty Indian-spiced stuffed peppers, and stacks of versatile and crispy baked tofu.

Truth be told, we went a little nuts with the make-ahead meals this month. "The Lunch Bunch" (p. 56) features easy pack-and-go recipes to break you out of a lunch rut; "Takin' It Slow" (Technique, p. 38) serves up some great new recipes for your trusty slow cooker; and our special pizza-themed Gluten-Free Redo (p. 32) shows you how to make a delicious par-baked crust, so all that's left to do before dinner is to top your pizza and pop it into the oven. That's our idea of convenience food.



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▲ PIZZA FOR EVERYONE

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If this month's Gluten-Free Redo (p. 32) has you craving even more pizza recipes—from traditional wheat-flour crusts to the best vegan pies—check out the Pizza Party roundup featured on our home page.

SEE OUR ST. PATRICK'S DAY BOARD ON PINTEREST

pinterest.com/vegtimes/st-patrick-s-day-recipes



Whether you're looking for a taste of the Emerald Isle on March 17 or simply seeking dinner ideas to warm up a blustery evening, you'll find a delicious collection of Irish-inspired and green recipes on our Pinterest St. Patrick's Day recipe board.

VEG DAILY BLOG ► Nutrition IQ: Foods to Boost Energy

vegetariantimes.com/boostenergy

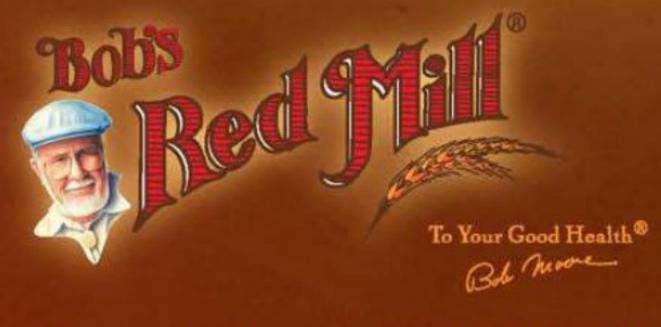
Health coach and VT blogger Jenné Claiborne is here to help you beat fatigue and feel more energized—naturally. Find out what foods she recommends when you need a bit more pep in your step.





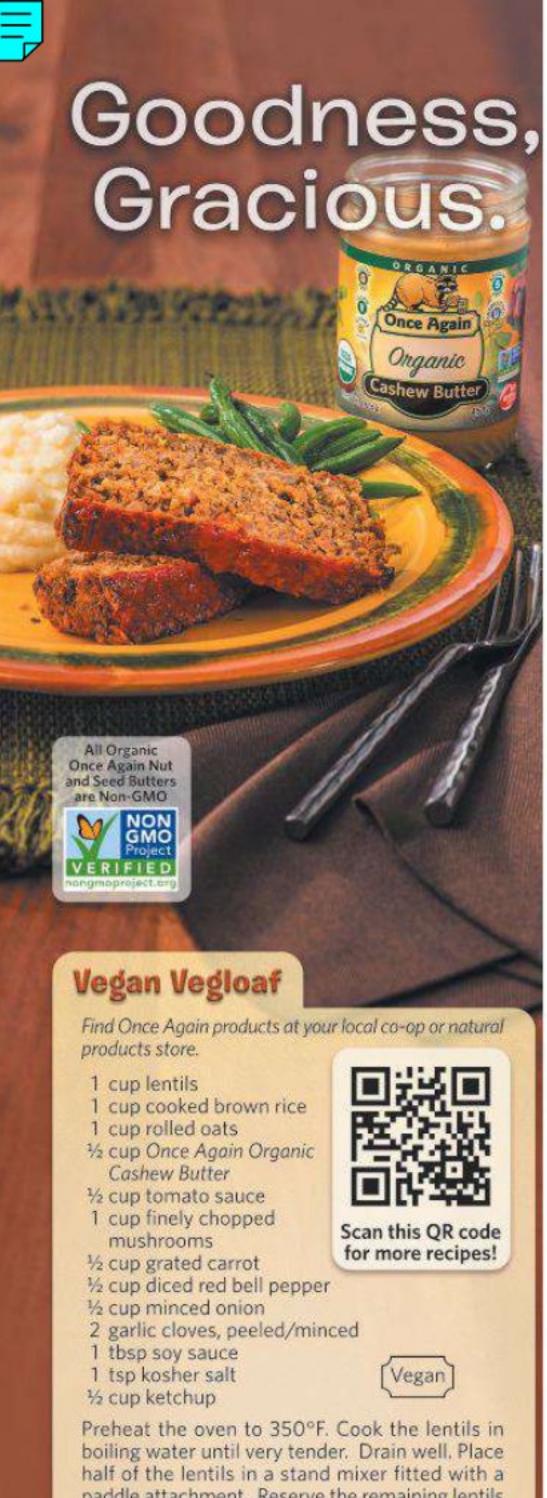
available on grocery store shelves throughout the country. And I hope you agree.

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Preheat the oven to 350°F. Cook the lentils in boiling water until very tender. Drain well, Place half of the lentils in a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment. Reserve the remaining lentils for later. Whip the lentils at high speed until puréed. Add the remaining ingredients except for the reserved lentils and ketchup. Mix at medium speed until combined. Fold in the whole lentils. Spray a loaf pan well with pan spray. Spoon the lentil mixture into the pan. Tap the pan on the counter to settle the mixture, then smooth the top with a spatula. Bake for 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and top with the ketchup. Return to the oven and bake for 45 minutes more, until the center of the loaf is set. Remove from the oven and let stand for 10 minutes before turning out onto a cutting board to slice. Enjoy!

NUTRIENTS PER SERVING (8 servings): CALORIES: 221, TOTAL FAT: 8.7g, SAT. FAT: 1.3g, CHOLESTEROL: Omg, SODIUM: 482mg, CARBS: 30.3g, FIBER: 4.8g, SUGARS: 6.2g, PROTEIN: 7.3g.

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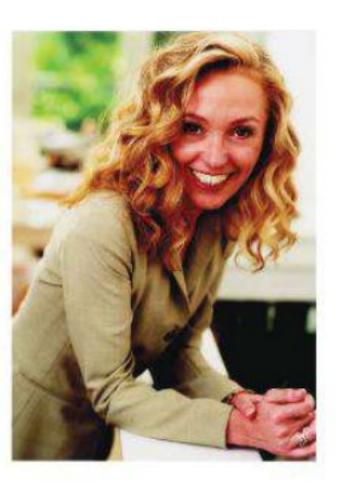






Circle reply #4 on Info Center card

CONTRIBUTORS 🥬



Los Angeles-based journalist Vera Tweed, who wrote "Veg Supplement Guide" (Veg 101, p. 28), specializes in dietary supplements, healthful food, and fitness.

What's your fondest food memory?

As a kid, I went to a convent school in England where the food was awful, but the nuns made fabulous treacle pudding (steamed sponge cake with syrup baked into it).

What's your No. 1 pantry staple?

Really good balsamic vinegar.

What's your favorite kitchen tool?

A very sharp knife—using it is like slicing veggies with a laser beam.



Santiago Uceda, an interactive art director, illustrator, and motion graphics artist living in Corvallis, Ore., illustrated "Veg Supplement Guide" (Veg 101, p. 28).

What did you discover while on this assignment?

That I should go back to taking supplements! In the middle of winter, when the skies are mostly gray, vitamin D is much needed.

What's your favorite kitchen tool?

My food processor. I use it a lot for desserts and snacks like banana ice cream and fig bars.

What's your No. 1 comfort food?

Baked apples dipped in almond butter.



Parisian food writer Clotilde Dusoulier created the recipes for "Ooh La La" (Easy Does It, p. 46), including one from her latest veg cookbook, The French Market Cookbook.

Who or what inspires you most?

The ebb and flow of the seasons, and what they bring to market stalls.

What's your favorite kitchen tool?

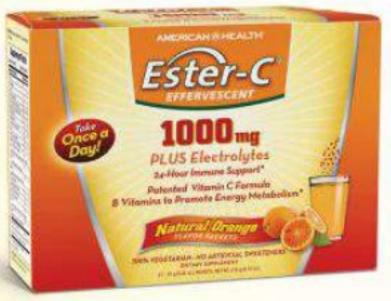
A mandoline slicer I got in Tokyo—paper-thin slices of vegetables make the loveliest salads and garnishes.

What's your fondest food memory?

The blueberry amandine tartlets we ate from the local pastry shop after a hike on a childhood vacation in the Alps. I re-created the recipe in my first cookbook.







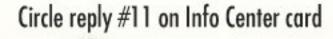
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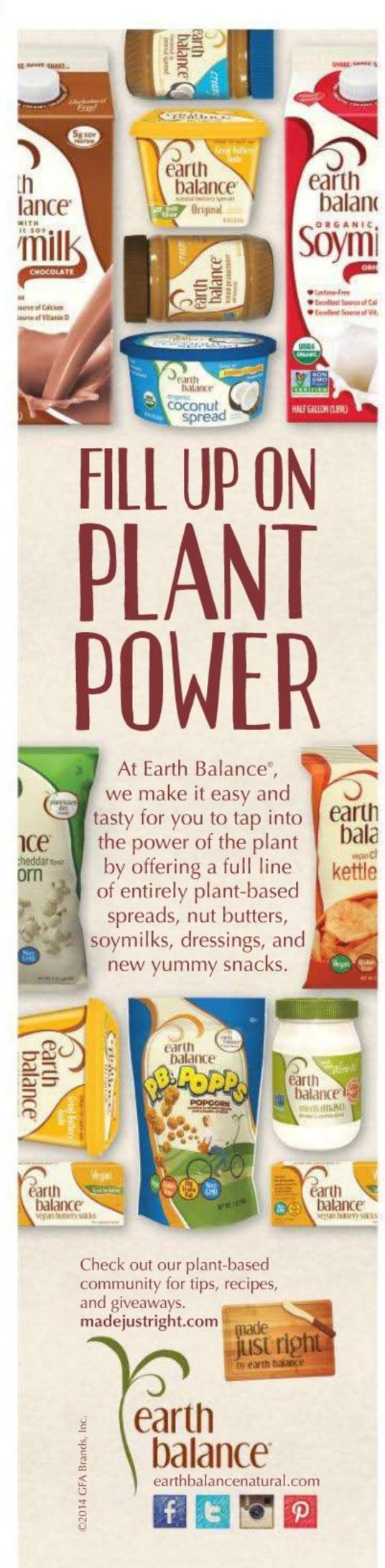


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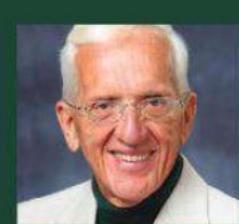
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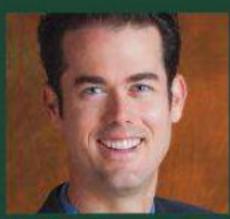
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and The Steve Harvey Show



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- R.B. (NY)



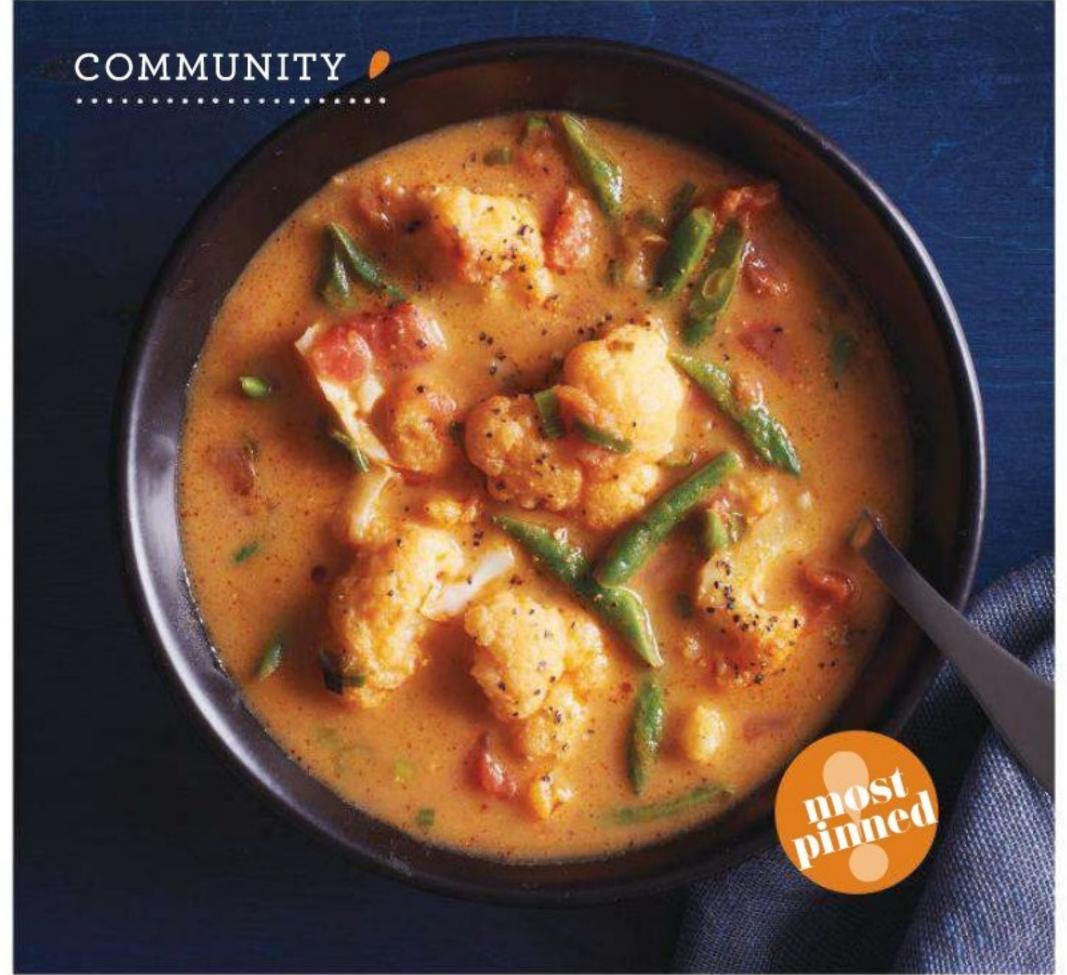


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letters

SOUP SEASON

Just finished making the Red Curry
Vegetable Soup [30 Minutes: "Comfort
in a Bowl," January/February, p. 26].
I added mushrooms and used green
beans (browned in butter) from last
night's dinner. Delicious and filling, and
the broth was super-tasty soaked up by
rosemary potato bread. What an easy,
fast, and healthy winter soup!

ANDREA BREWER | RICHMOND, VA.

TOFU CONVERT

I really don't like tofu, and spinach has always been one of my least favorite vegetables, so imagine my surprise when I tried the Spicy Tofu Stew [30 Minutes: "Comfort in a Bowl," January/February, p. 26] and found it to be wonderful! Love the recipes.

GINA SESTAK | VIA E-MAIL

BEAN BLUNDER

I love beans and felt lucky that I found the "Lucky Beans" feature [December, p. 66]. One thing, however, dismayed me. The article says that beans are "low" in cholesterol. This inadvertently miseducates. Beans, like all plant foods, have zero cholesterol.

DAN BROOK | VIA E-MAIL

Editor's note: Good point! You're absolutely right—there's no cholesterol in beans.

TWO, PLEASE

It would be nice if you could add a few recipes with just two servings. I'm sure that those new to vegetarian eating would appreciate it, as well as those who are senior citizens and/or single. Not all of us can afford to buy that much food, and it gets tiring to eat it all week.

MAUREEN O'SULLIVAN | EL RENO, OKLA.

Editor's note: You got it, Maureen. In this month's "Lunch Bunch" feature [p. 56], every recipe makes exactly two servings.

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: editor@vegetariantimes.com

OUR JANUARY/FEBRUARY ISSUE'S
MOST POPULAR RECIPE ON PINTEREST?
RED CURRY VEGETABLE SOUP [30 MINUTES:
"COMFORT IN A BOWL," p. 26]. JOIN THE
FUN AT PINTEREST.COM/VEGTIMES.

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Reader Recipe

Smoky Spiced Potato Shells

SERVES 6

Roberta Boyack, a copywriter from Miami, wowed her folks at brunch when she whipped up these satisfying egg-and tomato-stuffed potatoes. To make the recipe kid-friendly, go easy on the smoked paprika.

- 6 medium baking potatoes, scrubbed
- 6 large eggs, lightly beaten
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1½ cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup diced tomatoes with green chilies, drained
- ⅓ cup chopped green olives
- 4 green onions, thinly sliced (½ cup)
- Tbs. smoked paprika, plus more for sprinkling
- 1 Preheat oven to 400°F. Prick potatoes with fork, and bake 45 to 60 minutes on baking sheet, or until potatoes are easily pierced with knife. Cool until easy to handle.
- 2 Reduce oven temperature to 350°F.
 Cut thin slice off potato tops, and discard or reserve for another use. Scoop potato flesh from skins into large bowl, leaving ¼-inch wall inside skins. Add eggs and sour cream to potato flesh, and mix well to combine. Stir in cheese, tomatoes, olives, green onions, and smoked paprika. Stuff mixture back into potato shells, and sprinkle with smoked paprika.
 3 Place potatoes on baking sheet, and
- bake 35 minutes, or until knife inserted in center of a potato comes out clean.

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18 g total fat (10 g sat fat); 42 g carb; 219 mg chol; 548 mg sod; 5 g fiber; 3 g sugars



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COMMUNITY 🥬

TWhat's your best idea for an exciting (and healthful) weekday lunch?

I'm addicted to whole-wheat wraps with hummus, salsa, kale, and avocado. Two of those with tomato soup and a couple of hard-boiled eggs keep me going throughout the day!

-JACQUELINE MEGAW

A loaded spinach salad with fruits (strawberries, peaches, or nectarines), nuts, and raspberry vinaigrette. Quick, easy, and delicious!

-EMMA KATIE

Stuffed peppers, vegetarian style! Beans, quinoa, tomatoes, cheese. Yummy and nutritious.

-TAMMY COLLIER SKALLA, VIA FACEBOOK

On weeknights when I'm too tired to cook, I pull together a Mediterranean antipasto: crusty bread, olives, pickled eggplant, roasted red peppers, fresh figs—I just go with whatever I find in the fridge. It doubles beautifully as a lunch for the next day.

-VICTORIA MARTINO

next question:

What's your most inspired smoothie creation?

Visit **vegetariantimes.com/tellvt** to share your answer—and see what others have to say. Our favorite responses will be published in the next issue of *VT*.



Reader Name: Susan Hayse (right), pictured with her daughter, Claire Location: Downers Grove, III. Vegetarian Since: September 2004

What motivated you to go veg? What's your favorite s

My daughter needed company when she decided to go veg at 12 years old.

What's your favorite vegfriendly restaurant, and what do you order there?

Alfalfa in Lexington, Ky. I love their homemade bread and cabbage salad.

What's your favorite spice?

Nutmeg! The smell reminds me of home, family, and special occasions.

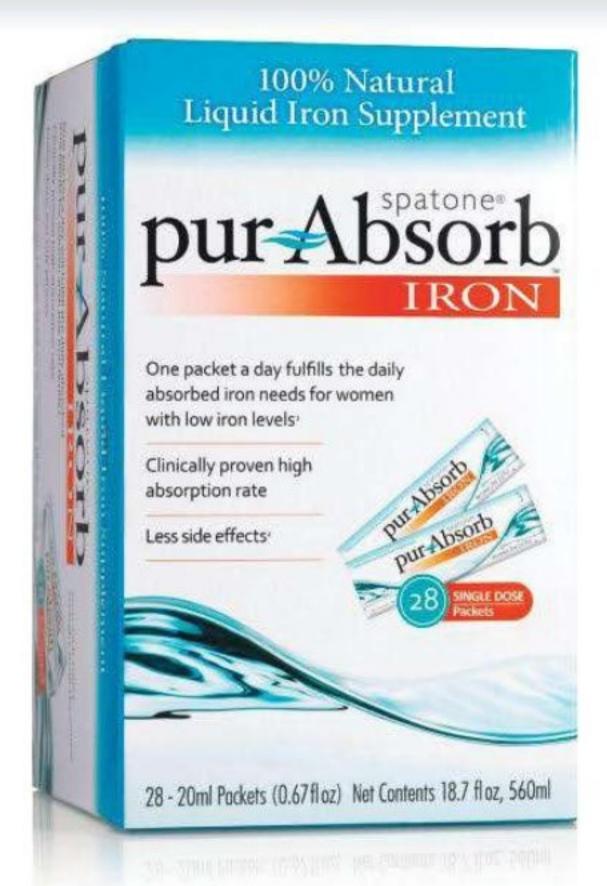
What's your best advice for new vegetarians?

Find a friend who will join you and trade ideas and recipes.
Eating is a social activity and builds human connections.

In celebration of her Vegiversary, Susan won a Complete Spice Rack Restart Kit and other prizes from Frontier Natural Products.

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PEAK

SEASON



DHE DZZ

Don't let cherimoya's reptilian appearance deter you: this tropical fruit tastes like a cross between pineapple, mango, coconut, and vanilla.

BY MATTHEW KADEY, RD

PICK

Choose cherimoyas that are uniformly green, heavy for their size, firm, and free of cracks or soft spots. Ripen the fruit at room temperature away from direct sunlight until it begins to darken and yield to slight pressure like an avocado, says George McMangle, of Grove Stand in Fallbrook, Calif. Once ripe, eat promptly or store in the fridge for no more than three days, he advises.

PREP

To serve, McMangle suggests slicing the fruit in half, discarding the seeds, and scooping out the custard-like flesh with a spoon.

Alternatively, peel with a paring knife, and cut flesh into cubes for salads, or purée and use in tarts, pancake batter, puddings, or quick breads. "The creamy texture is also ideal for making sherbet, ice cream, and smoothies," McMangle says.

TRY THIS

- Place cherimoya pulp in a blender along with a coconut beverage, silken tofu, cashew butter, vanilla extract, and ice cubes; whirl into a tropical-tasting **smoothie**.
- For a salsa to complement tempeh tacos, combine diced cherimoya, red bell pepper, red onion, jalapeño, mint, and orange zest.
- Simmer together steel-cut oats, cherimoya purée, almond milk, ground ginger, and cinnamon for a hearty **breakfast bowl.**













Animal-derived skins, feathers, fur, wool, silk, and adhesives are no longer de rigueur when it comes to couture. For Fall/Winter 2014 Fashion Weeks from New York to Berlin, a class of designers is debuting humane collections that mirror the principles of plant-based cuisine: the ingredients are slightly different from the norm, but the construction, artistry, and quality are every bit as sumptuous.

PRETTY PRINCIPLED

The first all-veg label to be included in New York City's Fashion Week in 2013, VAUTE COUTURE expands its outerwear collection; knitwear designer MIAKODA shows off hand-crocheted accessories in wear-anywhere neutrals. Vintage-inspired gowns dominate at ATELIER TAMMAN, the first fashion house to earn the Vegetarian Society of the United Kingdom's official approval. UMASAN dazzles at Berlin Fashion Week with its use of high-tech materials such as SeaCell, derived from algae, and Energear, which reflects infrared rays to radiate energy back to the body.

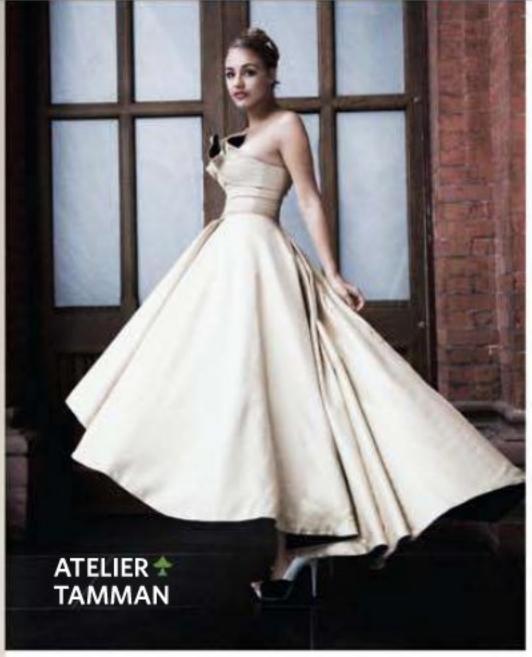
MEN OF VIRTUE

Ethical haberdasher BRAVE **GENTLEMAN** channels "nostalgic Americana" with slim-cut suits, fedoras, and gloves, all handcrafted from recycled materials. Avant-garde Parisian men's footwear designer ROMBAUT debuts boots made from fig tree bark, a biodegradable material ethically sourced from Uganda.

SHOE COURTESY BEYOND SKIN; CATWALK COURTESY UMASAN









FEET FORWARD

CRI DE COUER'S covered wedges, lush florals, and rubber lug heels blend royal opulence and function; **OLSENHAUS** offers a futuristic take on rocker plaids and slick metallic boots. BEYOND SKIN'S 40s-inspired collection at Project London showcases Italian woven fabrics and recycled faux suedes. NICORA JOHNS'S hip boots and flats are made in America by artisans paid a fair wage; KRŽE STUDIO blends Italian craftsmanship with breathable materials.

ARM CANDY

Spotted on the arms of some of the red carpet's most famous celebrities (hello, Anne Hathaway), JILL MILAN boasts versatile satchels and clutches made from waterproof, dirt-resistant recycled PET. FREEDOM OF ANIMALS'S line of bags is made from recycled polyurethane and benefits The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust; Brazilian accessories house CANNA updates its classic totes with metallic accents and canvas in whimsical prints.







TASTE TEST

BY TAMI FERTIG

Not just for vinaigrettes, balsamic vinegar perks up everything from roasted root veggies to risotto. Grab one of these VT-tested supermarket bottles for all your tangy-sweet needs.

drizzle this

SPECTRUM ORGANIC **GOLDEN BALSAMIC** VINEGAR

This honey-colored vinegar, made from organic grapes, tastes a tad sweeter and milder than its darker cousins (and it won't stain your salad). \$9.99/500 mL; spectrumorganics.com

2

LUCINI DARK CHERRY BALSAMICO ARTISAN VINEGAR

Rich and fruity, this aged balsamic makes a great marinade for tofu or tempeh. Or try reducing it to a glaze and drizzling over fresh strawberries. \$14.99/250 mL; lucini.com



O OAK AGED CALIFORNIA BALSAMIC

Who says balsamic vinegar has to come from Modena, Italy? This not-too-thick favorite made in Sonoma County, Calif., packs plenty of bold, pungent flavor. \$12/250 mL; ooliveoil.com



concentrate!

Make your own balsamic reduction by simmering balsamic vinegar in a saucepan over medium heat 10 minutes, or until thick and syrupy. Add a swirl to soups and salads.



Rosemary-and-Balsamic-Roasted Grapes and Olives on vegetariantimes.com



ROMULO YANES

MARIO DE LOPEZ

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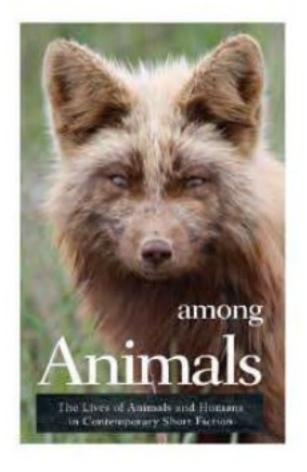


IN PERSON

HOT SPOTS

BY JENNIFER NALEWICKI

BY AMY SPITALNICK



Penguins, emus, and bears ... oh my! Wild as well as domesticated creatures populate Among Animals: The Lives of Animals and Humans in Contemporary Short Fiction, recently published by Ashland Creek Press. Here, we talk with the press's co-founder Midge Raymond, a Pushcart Prize-nominated author who also contributed to the collection.

an open book

Q

How much do you identify with the main character in your story "The Ecstatic Cry"?

I'm not at all scientific; I relate to the part of the character that forgets she's a scientist, that sees in the penguins [she studies] a reflection of her own life. As humans, we often see ourselves as completely separate from animals, but we're not as different as we think. Animals are smart, emotional, and even playful, just in different ways than we are. I can also relate to the character's dismay over the way people treat the planet. She sees tourists trampling over the fragile Antarctic landscape, which is a metaphor for how we mistreat the earth, usually without thinking.



When you have a strong point of view on a subject, how do you avoid propagandizing in your fiction?

The most important thing when writing fiction is to focus on the story and on the characters—to portray the character's motives, backstory, and actions as part of a tale that isn't about the issue itself, but about something that allows the issue to emerge. And if I have a character with a strong point of view, I'll balance him or her with a character with a different point of view; this not only creates good drama, but keeps the story from being one-sided.



Do traditionally held distinctions between animals we love as pets and animals we kill as food tend to persist in popular fiction? Can fiction also erase those distinctions?

It's my hope that it can erase those distinctions. Eco-fiction, which to me includes animal protection, is only beginning to emerge as a genre, and as a society, we have a long way to go in terms of connecting environmentalism to animal protection. Before becoming a vegan I hadn't touched on these issues in my writing at all; now they're on my mind whenever I sit down to write. As an example, I pay closer attention to what my characters eat.





Brooklyn, N.Y., pineboxrockshop.com



This Brooklyn bar-with-a-vegan-difference serves a selection of plant-based empanadas from local restaurant The V-Spot, and you'll find a vegan food truck or two parked outside. "Our thought was to make vegan normal," says Jeff Rush, who owns the bar with his wife, Heather. "We're not trying to beat people over the head with it. Our goal is to be a neighborhood bar." Which brings us to the "pine box" in the name, a tip of the hat to the location's former tenant, a casket builder.

GREEN DAY The bar's owners are huge fans of St. Patrick's Day, and even bigger music fans—they're both musicians—so expect a live band to perform Irish rock on the 17th. Another nod (and a wink) to the Emerald Isle: screenings of the movie Leprechaun. A selection of Irish brews such as Moylan's Danny's Irish Style Red Ale and Sly Fox O'Reilly's Stout is on tap, while bartenders swap out Baileys Irish Cream for their own dairyfree version, which is swirled into cocktails such as the Sam in a Sweater, made with Crystal Head vodka, Cointreau, A&W root beer, and a brandied cherry.

ENTRY DESIGN; COURTESY MIDGE RAYMOND CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY ASHLAND CREEK PRESS; PHOTOS AND MURAL: NEV, NO

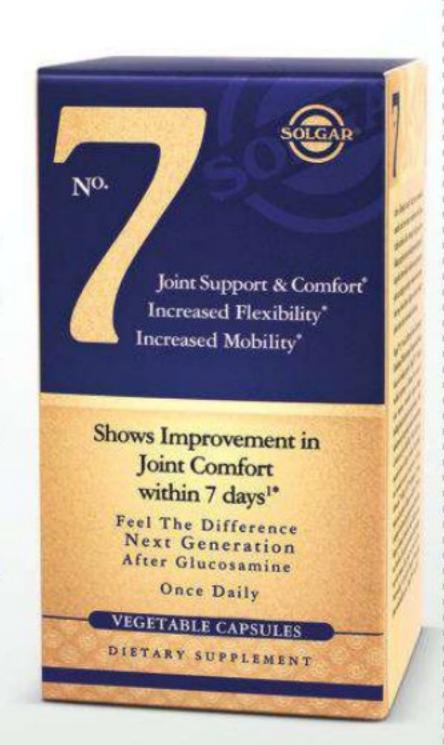


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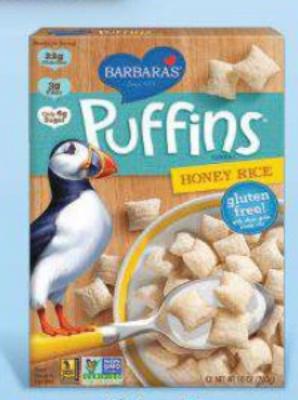
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PER 1½-CUP SERVING 328 cal; 16 g prot; 9 g total fat

11 g sugars 🕝

(1 g sat fat); 52 g carb; 2 mg chol; 582 mg sod; 5 g fiber;

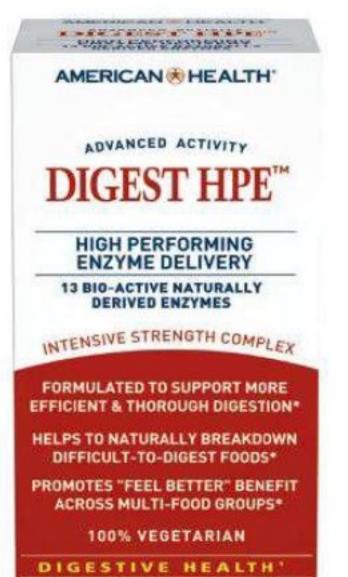
1 28-oz. can crushed tomatoes

1/2 cup low-fat Greek-style yogurt

cup chopped cilantro







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Bok Choy and Shiitake Rice Pilaf

Pilafs are made by sautéing rice with vegetables and seasonings, then steaming the mixture in enough liquid for the grains to get tender without turning to mush. Button mushrooms can stand in for shiitakes; you can also replace bok choy with any quick-cooking vegetable (e.g., snow peas or zucchini).

- 1 Tbs. peanut oil or vegetable oil
- 12 oz. sliced shiitake mushrooms
- 1 small shallot, chopped (¼ cup)
- 2 tsp. grated fresh ginger
- 1/4 tsp. Chinese five-spice powder
- 1 cup long-grain white rice
- 1 cup frozen shelled edamame
- 1 Tbs. low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 heads baby bok choy, thinly sliced
- 2 green onions, sliced (1/4 cup)
- 1 tsp. toasted sesame seeds
- 1 tsp. toasted sesame oil
- 1 Heat peanut oil in large, nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms and shallot; cook 5 minutes. Add ginger and five-spice powder; cook 30 seconds.
- 2 Add rice to skillet, and sauté 1 to 2 minutes, or until rice becomes translucent at the edges. Add edamame, soy sauce, and 1½ cups water. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium-low, cover pan, and simmer 12 minutes. Uncover, add bok choy, replace lid, and cook 5 to 7 minutes more, or until bok choy is wilted.
- 3 | Sprinkle with green onions, sesame seeds, and sesame oil before serving.

 PER 1%-CUP SERVING 310 cal; 10 g prot;

 7 g total fat (<1 g sat fat); 52 g carb;

 0 mg chol; 170 mg sod; 5 g fiber; 5 g sugars

Collard Green Frittata

Frozen collards (or substitute frozen spinach) are an easy way to get greens into a frittata. For zing, drizzle frittata wedges with hot sauce or barbecue sauce.

- 1 Tbs. olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped (1½ cups)



NON-STICK INSURANCE To ensure skillet recipes slide easily out of the pan, spritz the pan with cooking spray before adding the oil.

- 1 10-oz. bag frozen collard greens, thawed and drained
- 10 large eggs, beaten
- ⅓ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Preheat oven to 400°F.
- 2 Heat oil in ovenproof 10- to 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion, and sauté 5 minutes, or until translucent. Push onion to one side of pan, and add collard greens. Cook 5 minutes, then stir together greens and onions.
- 3 Stir eggs into collard mixture. Cook 5 to 7 minutes, or until edges are set. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.
- 4 | Transfer skillet to oven, and bake 10 minutes, or until egg mixture is completely set. Cut into 6 wedges.

 PER WEDGE 190 cal; 14 g prot; 12 g total fat (4 g sat fat); 8 g carb; 314 mg chol;

Gnocchi, Lentil, and

Escarole Soup

210 mg sod; 2 g fiber; 2 g sugars

Prepared gnocchi, sun-dried tomatoes, and pesto make a quick, comforting Italianstyle soup. No gnocchi on hand? Replace it with 1½ cups peeled, cubed potatoes added with the lentils in step 1. Choose a vegan pesto to make the soup vegan.

- 1 Tbs. olive oil
- large yellow onion, chopped
 cups)
- 3 cups low-sodium vegetable broth
- 3/4 cup French lentils
- 4 cups chopped escarole
- 1½ cups prepared potato gnocchi (8 oz.)
- 6 oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes, drained and chopped (¼ cup)
- 1 Tbs. prepared basil pesto
- 1 Heat oil in large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add onion, and cook 5 minutes. Add broth, 3 cups water, and

lentils, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer 10 minutes, or until lentils are almost tender.

2 Add escarole, gnocchi, and sun-dried tomatoes; cover, and cook 5 minutes more, or until gnocchi are cooked through and escarole has wilted. Remove from heat, and stir in pesto.

PER 2-CUP SERVING 368 cal; 14 g prot; 8 g total fat (2 g sat fat); 62 g carb; 0 mg chol; 476 mg sod; 11 g fiber; 10 g sugars

Savory Oats with Brie and Cherry Tomatoes

SERVES 4 | 30 MINUTES OR FEWER

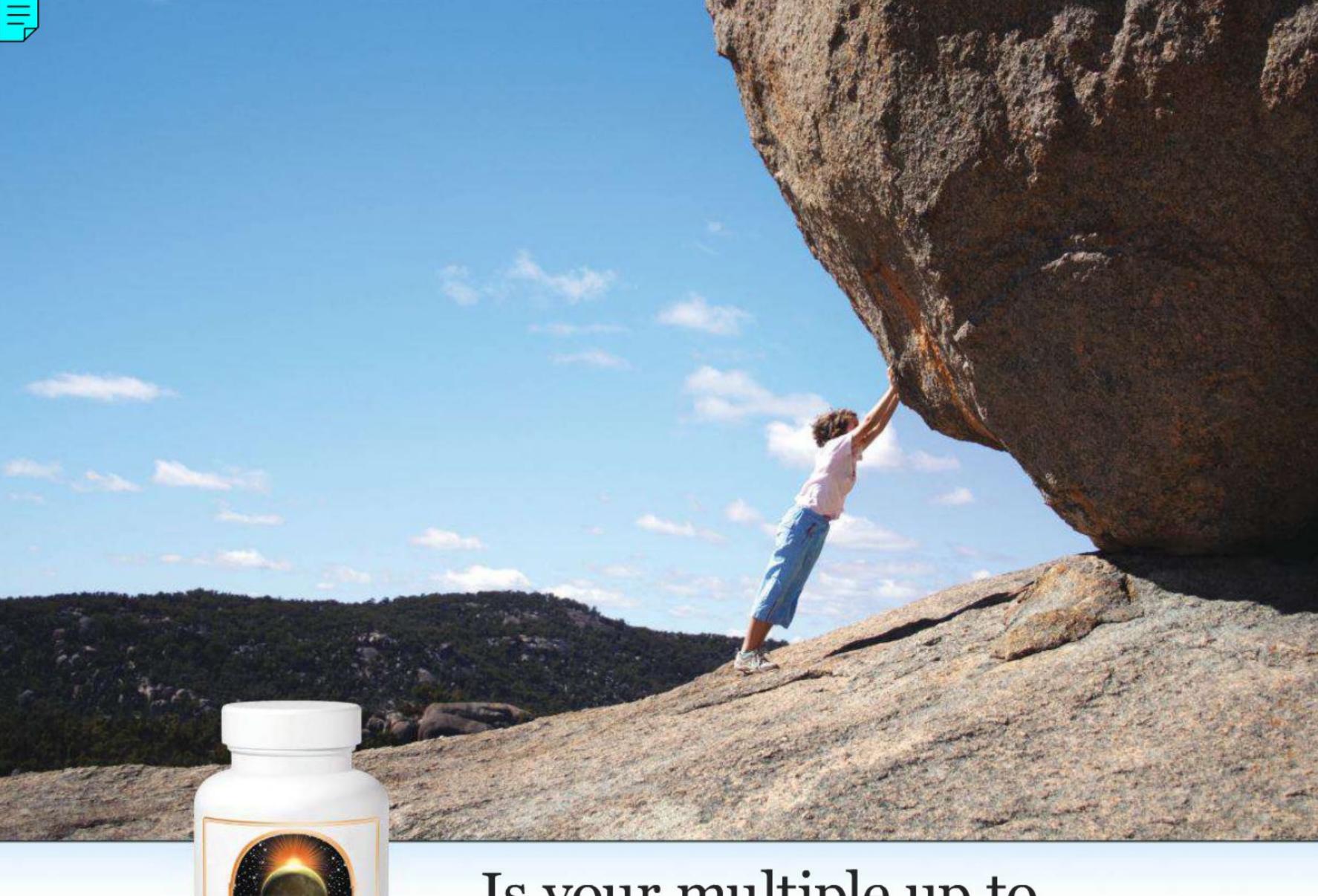
Sub any cheese for the Brie, any chopped nuts for the pine nuts, and any fresh herb for the basil in this one-bowl dinner.

- 2 tsp. olive oil or butter
- 1 shallot, chopped
- 2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
- ½ tsp. salt, optional
- 2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1 clove garlic, minced (1 tsp.)
- 1½ oz. Brie, cut into small cubes
- 1/4 cup fresh basil leaves, torn
- 1 Tbs. toasted pine nuts
- 1 Heat oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Add shallot, tomatoes, and salt (if using). Cook 5 minutes, or until shallot has softened and tomatoes start releasing their juices. Add oats; cook 1 minute more.
- 2 Stir in garlic and 4 cups water, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to mediumlow, and simmer, uncovered, 10 minutes. Remove from heat, and dot with Brie. Sprinkle with basil and pine nuts.

PER 1¼-CUP SERVING 252 cal; 11 g prot; 9 g total fat (2 g sat fat); 32 g carb; 11 mg chol; 363 mg sod; 5 g fiber; 4 g sugars

Joy Manning is a Philadelphia-based food writer, editor, and recipe developer.

Frances Largeman-Roth, RD, lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two children.



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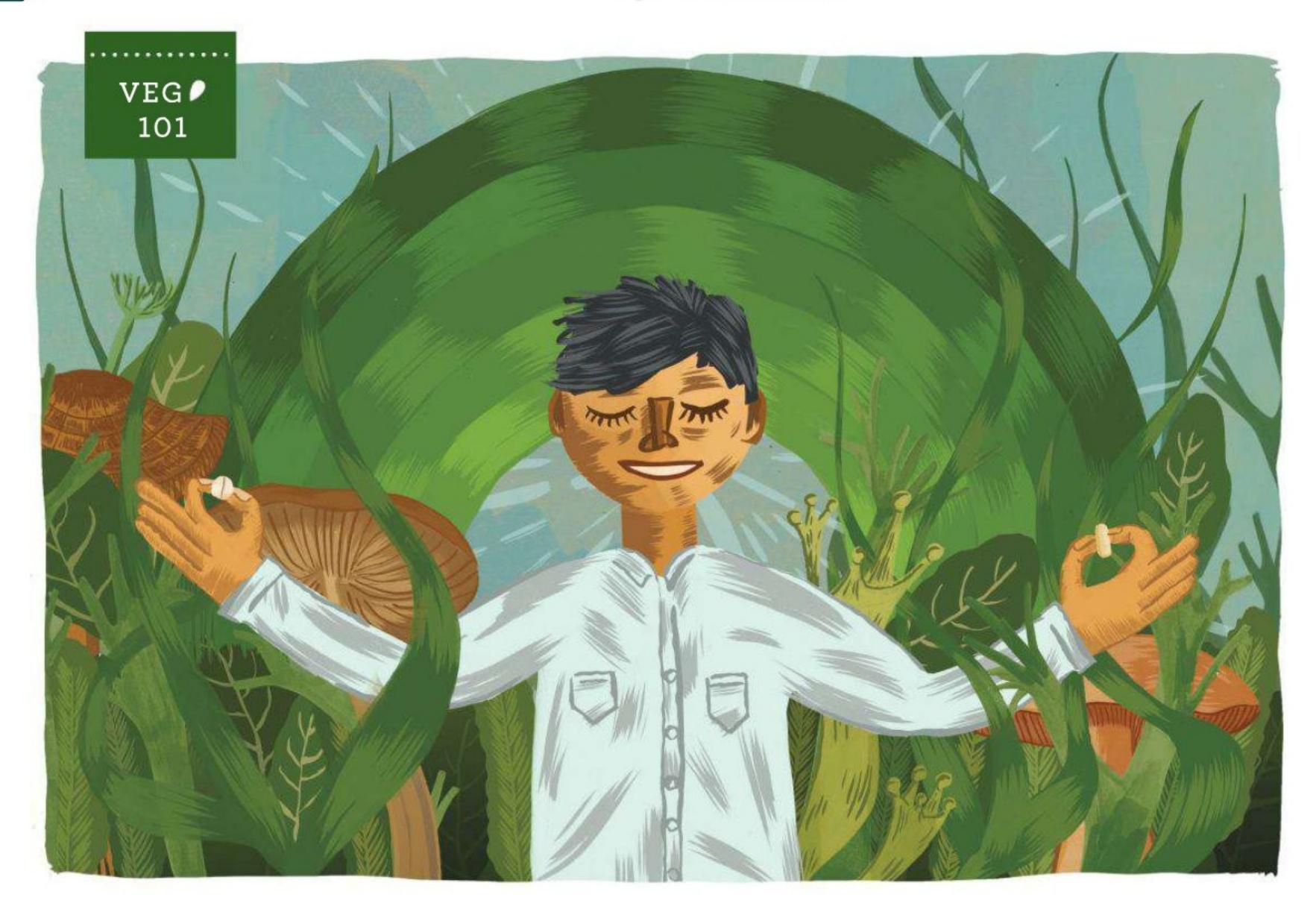
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Veg AND VEGETARIAN SHOULD KNOW SUPPLEMENT-BOOSTERS EVERY VEGAN AND VEGETARIAN SHOULD KNOW

GETTING ALL THE VITAMINS and minerals you need from the food you eat can be challenging for anyone—no matter what diet you follow. Not sure where you might come up short? In a 2009 research review, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly the American Dietetic Association) identified important nutrients of concern to vegans and vegetarians: omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins B₁₂ and D, calcium, zinc, iron, and iodine. Supplements can help fill in the gaps should your menu be lacking, but before navigating the aisles, read on for what to look for—and what to avoid—when seeking veg-friendly options.

BY Vera Tweed ILLUSTRATIONS Santiago Uceda



Omega-3s

Two omega-3 fatty acids—eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA)—promote overall health, including normal brain function and a healthy heart, and may contribute to strong bones and a lower risk for diabetes. GETTING ENOUGH? Fish is the primary food source of EPA and DHA. Plants contain the most basic type of omega-3, alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), which is found in abundance in chia, ground flaxseeds, flax oil, and walnuts, and in trace amounts in soybeans and tofu. Although your body can convert ALA into EPA and DHA, it may not produce enough: studies show that compared to omnivores, vegans and vegetarians tend to have lower blood levels of both EPA and DHA.

VEG FACTOR: Look for fish-free omega-3 supplements that deliver either DHA or a combination of EPA and DHA made from microalgae (the same stuff fish eat to get their omega-3s). If you're pregnant or breast-feeding, consider talking to your physician about supplementing with DHA, especially important for the brain and central nervous system, to support the healthy development of your baby.

Vitamin B₁₂

Everyone needs vitamin B₁₂ for healthy nerves and blood—a deficiency can cause

serious and irreversible nerve damage, fatigue, and anemia. GETTING ENOUGH? B12 is produced by the gut bacteria in animals, and substantial amounts are found naturally only in animal foods. Eggs and dairy provide some B₁₂, but not as much as meat and fish. You can alternatively turn to B₁₂-fortified breakfast cereals, plant-based milks, meat substitutes, and nutritional yeast such as Red Star Vegetarian Support Formula. The National Institutes of Health recommends supplemental B₁₂ for everyone over age 50-vegetarians and omnivores alike-since your body loses the ability to absorb B₁₂ from foods as you get older. The recommended intake is only 2.4 micrograms (2.8 micrograms if you're breast-feeding), but there's no harm in upping that amount, since your body can safely store excess B12. VEG FACTOR: B₁₂ in supplements is not animal-derived, but it could be packed in non-veg gelatin capsules, so check the label. You can also get your daily dose of B₁₂ from a multivitamin.

Vitamin D

In addition to helping your body absorb calcium for stronger bones, the sunshine

blood pressure, and cancer.

vitamin supports a robust immune system. Shortages have been linked to greater likelihood of depression, high

GETTING ENOUGH? You can generate vitamin D on your own by getting direct sunlight, but using sunscreen or covering up your skin stops the process. Many Americans-veg or not-may lack sufficient vitamin D, which can be hard to get from food alone. Food sources include mushrooms exposed to UV rays and fortified products such as dairy and nondairy milks, orange juices, and breakfast cereals.

VEG FACTOR: There are two forms of vitamin D. D2, derived from yeast, is typically used in fortified foods, while D₃, traditionally made from lanolin in sheep's wool, is arguably more absorbable. Fortunately, more and more vegan vitamin D₃ options—sourced from lichen instead of lanolin-are popping up on the market.

Calcium

Essential for bone health, calcium helps lower risk of bone fractures, especially in older people. To absorb calcium, you also need vitamin D.

GETTING ENOUGH? Dairy gets the most attention, but greens such as kale,

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE FOLLOWING ON SUPPLEMENT LABELS:

GELATIN The most common non-veg ingredient to look for. Many otherwise vegetarian supplements are rendered nonvegetarian by the presence of a gel cap. You want the ones delivered in V-caps or veggie caps. Gelatin is also found in some gummy vitamins.

LANOLIN The source of most vitamin D₃ supplements. Derived from sheep's wool, lanolin is vegetarian but not vegan.

STEARIC ACID An additive that prevents supplement ingredients from caking during the manufacturing process. It might be derived from animals or plants (look for "vegetable source" in the ingredients list).





40th anniversary

READER RECIPE CONTEST



The Big 4-0!

VT's got a major milestone coming up this fall: Our November issue will mark 40 years of providing home cooks with delicious vegetarian recipes and expert advice on health, nutrition, and green living. We're asking readers to help us celebrate by entering their best party recipes in our 40th Anniversary Reader Recipe Contest.

To participate in the contest, simply send us your tastiest vegetarian or vegan party recipes in the following categories: Starters and Sides, Entrées, and Desserts. Recipes should call for no more than 10 ingredients (salt, pepper, water, and cooking spray are freebies) and must include at least one product from the sponsors listed below. The entry deadline is April 30, 2014.

Recipes will be judged on originality, taste, ease of preparation, and presentation. Three winners (one from each recipe category) will each be awarded a \$500 cash prize. The winning recipes, three runner-up recipes, and all the readers that create them will be featured in the November 2014 issue of Vegetarian Times.



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collards, and cabbage also have highly absorbable calcium. Fortified plant milks, orange juices, and tofu are good plant-based sources too. If you don't consume a few servings a day, however, you could require a calcium boost. What's more, some greens, such as spinach, beet greens, and Swiss chard, contain oxalates, substances that inhibit calcium absorption. (Oxalates break down when greens are cooked.) Multivitamins may include enough calcium for your needs; if not, you can take a separate supplement, which might be paired with vitamin D or magnesium to help your body assimilate the nutrients. Supplements should provide only the amount missing from food-calcium overload can be toxic. The RDA for calcium is 1,000 milligrams daily for women up to age 50 and men up to age 70. The safe upper limit is 2,500 milligrams daily for men and women up to age 50, and 2,000 milligrams daily after age 50.

VEG FACTOR: Calcium in most supplements comes from mineral deposits, but watch out for calcium derived from bone meal or oyster shell.

Multivitamin

A multivitamin is a convenient way to add overall insurance to your diet. In addition to calcium and vitamins D and B₁₂, it often contains essential nutrients such as zinc, iodine, and iron that you may be missing.

of immune-boosting zinc in nuts and seeds, but absorption may be blocked by phytates in whole grains and legumes. Likewise, iodine, important for thyroid health, can be found in iodized table salt (not sea salt or kosher salt) and sea veg-

gies, but soybeans, cruciferous veggies, and sweet potatoes can interfere with iodine's absorption.

Iron, too, can be tricky: women who have not reached menopause may need extra iron, which is lost during monthly periods. Eating iron-rich leafy green veggies and beans along with vitamin C-rich foods aids iron absorption. Note: If you get enough iron and calcium from other sources, look for formulas that leave these out. Too much can be harmful. VEG FACTOR: Stick with multivitamins labeled "vegan" or "vegetarian." Some contain digestive enzymes and probiotics, often called friendly bacteria, which enhance digestion and absorption of nutrients from both supplements and foods.



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Dizza

A CRISPY CRUST AND 10 TOPPING COMBOS TO SATISFY EVERY CRAVING

Pizza is one of the main foods people say they miss when they find out they're gluten intolerant. While most toppings are safe, the crispy-chewy crust can be hard to replicate without wheat flour. VT enlisted author and blogger Allyson Kramer to collaborate on a crust that has crunch and texture, plus topping combinations that raise the bar on any homemade pizza session.



Gluten-Free Pizza Crust

MAKES 2 11-INCH ROUND PIZZAS OR

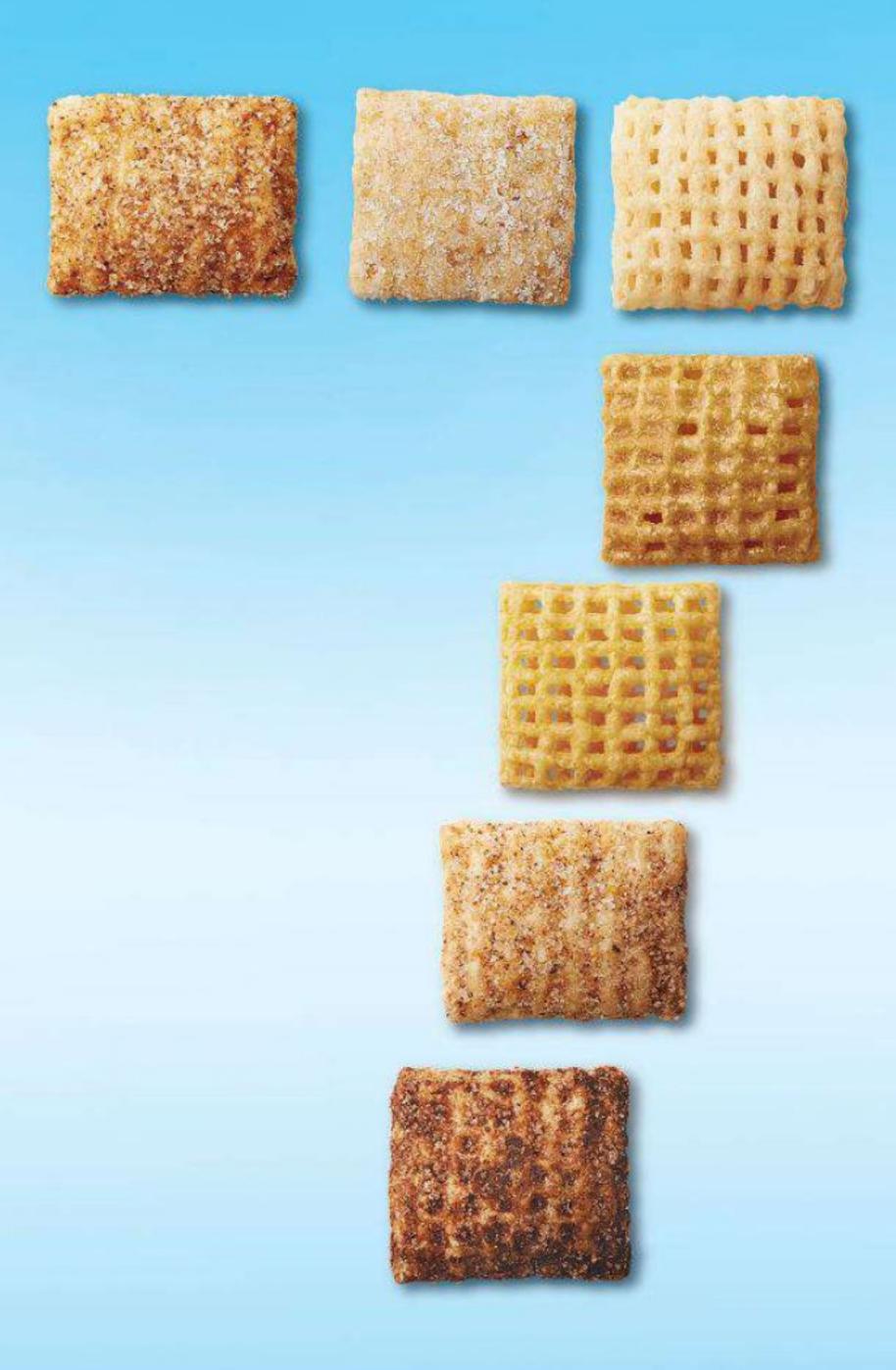
1 LARGE RECTANGULAR PIZZA

Because this dough is very soft, it's spread in a lightly greased pan before it rises rather than after. The crust will shrink as it cooks, so be sure to spread the dough all the way to the edges of the pan.

- 1 0.25-oz. pkg. active dry yeast (2 Tbs.)
- 2 Tbs. flaxseed meal
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1½ cups tapioca starch
 - 1 cup brown rice flour
 - 1 cup white rice flour
- 2 tsp. xanthan gum
- 1½ tsp. salt
- 3 Tbs. olive oil, plus more for hands and pan
- 1 Stir yeast, flaxseed meal, and sugar into 2 cups warm water.
 Let stand 10 minutes, or until liquid is cloudy.
- 2 Meanwhile, whisk together tapioca starch, rice flours, xanthan gum, and salt in large bowl. Stir yeast mixture into flour mixture until soft dough begins to form, then stir in oil.
- Or one 18- x 13-inch baking sheet with oil. Divide dough between round pans or scoop into baking sheet, and coat hands with oil. Gently press and shape dough by hand to fit prepared pan(s). Set dough aside in warm place to rise 1½ hours. (You won't see much, but the yeast will be working.)
- 4 | Preheat oven to 425°F. Par-bake pizza crusts 15 to 20 minutes, or until just golden brown. Add preferred toppings, return to oven, and bake 5 to 7 minutes more, or until cheeses begin to melt and/or toppings brown. PER SLICE 198 cal; 2 g prot; 6 g total fat (<1 g sat fat); 35 g carb; 0 mg chol;

2 mg sod; 2 g fiber; <1 g sugars W 🐷





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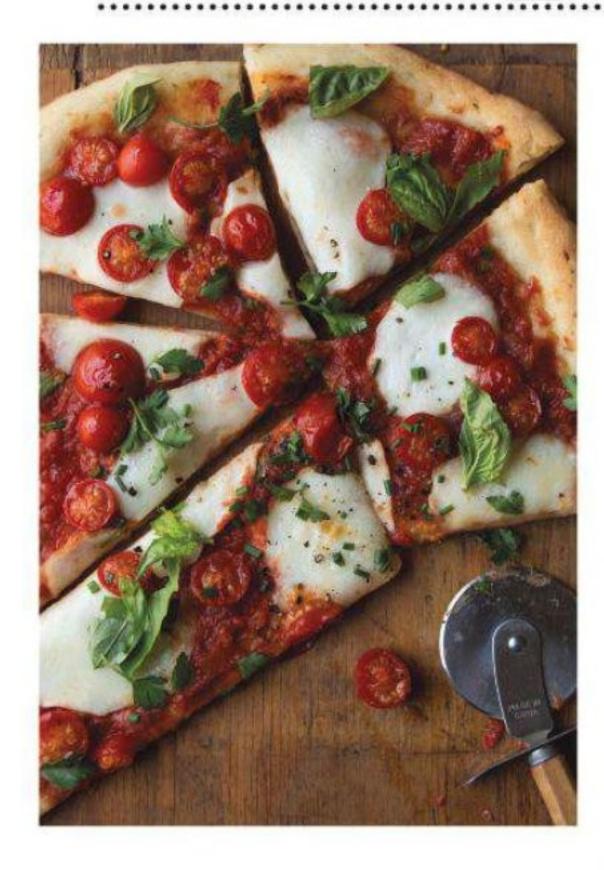
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GLUTEN-FREE PREDO

the tops!



Jazz up your next homemade pizza with one of these topping combinations. All are gluten free, and can easily be veganized with dairy-free cheese and sour cream. Amounts are for one rectangular or two round pizzas.



Tangy-Sweet

Brush ¼ cup sun-dried tomato pesto over par-baked crust. Top with 1½ cups cooked, sliced sweet potatoes, ½ cup thinly sliced red onion, and ¾ cup crumbled feta cheese. Bake until cheese is soft and beginning to brown, then add 2 cups baby arugula.

PER SLICE 266 cal; 4 g prot; 10 g total fat (2 g sat fat); 42 g carb; 8 mg chol; 136 mg sod; 3 g fiber; 3 g sugars



Hummus Pie

Spread 1¼ cups hummus over par-baked crust. Top with ½ cup chopped roasted red peppers, ⅓ cup chopped red onion, and 1 tsp. ground sumac. Bake until toppings are hot. Garnish with cilantro.

PER SLICE 248 cal; 4 g prot; 9 g total fat (1 g sat fat); 40 g carb; 0 mg chol; 118 mg sod; 4 g fiber; <1 g sugars

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Continued on p. 80







New!

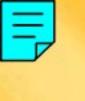
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TECHNIQUE P

RECIPES BY Joyce Sangirardi

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takin' it slow

JARS TOURRON Kitchen fads come and go, but those slow cookers introduced in the 1970s have stood the test of time. It's still hard to beat low, steady heat when it comes to drawing out delicate food flavors, especially on chilly nights. PHOTOGRAPHY: VICTORIA WALL HARRIS; FOOD STYLING: VIVIAN LUI; PROP LOW HEAT AND SLOW COOKING **BRING OUT THE SUBTLE FLAVORS** IN THIS BROTHY JAPANESE **NOODLE SOUP.**

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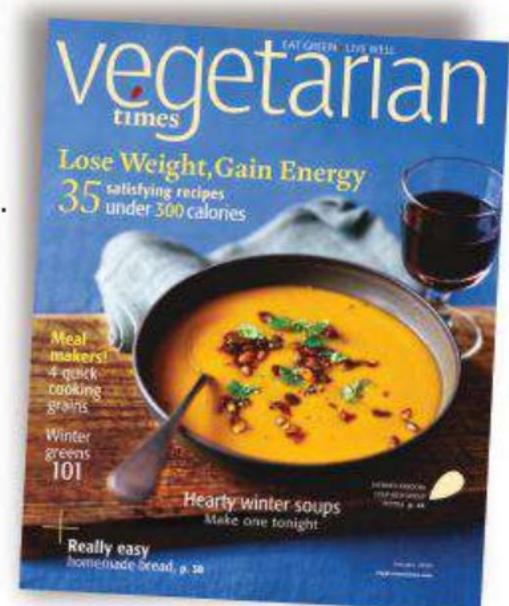
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Japanese Noodle Soup

SERVES 4

You can adapt this light, satisfying soup to your schedule. Done in about five hours, it can continue to simmer in the slow cooker up to four hours more without turning mushy. The broth just gets richer.

- 1/2 head garlic (6 unseparated cloves)
- 4 green onions, divided
- 2 5-inch pieces dried kombu or kelp
- 7 coins sliced fresh ginger (from 2-inch piece)
- 1/4 cup low-sodium tamari sauce
- 3 Tbs. mirin or sake
- 2 tsp. sugar, optional
- 2 cups thinly sliced shiitake mushrooms
- 3 large carrots, thinly sliced
- 4 cups (8 oz.) cooked thin rice noodles or udon noodles, or 2 8-oz. pkg. shirataki noodles, rinsed, drained, and snipped into spaghetti-length pieces
- 2 cups snow peas and/or thinly sliced napa cabbage
- 4 tsp. sesame oil for garnish, optional
- 2 tsp. sesame seeds for garnish, optional
- 1 Cut garlic head half through middle to expose centers of cloves. Place garlic in slow cooker. Trim white parts from green onions, and add white parts to slow cooker along with kombu and ginger. Chop green tops of green onions, and set aside.
- 2 Add tamari, mirin, sugar (if using), and 8 cups water to slow cooker.

 Cover, and cook on low 4 to 8 hours.

 Strain, and discard solids. Return broth to slow cooker, add mushrooms and carrots, cover, and cook 1 hour more, or until vegetables are tender.
- **3** Divide noodles among four large bowls. Top with snow peas, then ladle broth over top. Garnish with chopped green onions, sesame oil, and sesame seeds (if using).

PER 2-CUP SERVING 282 cal; 6 g prot; <1 g total fat (<1 g sat fat); 59 g carb; 0 mg chol; 769 mg sod; 5 g fiber; 8 g sugars



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Vegetables with Farro

SERVES 6

Here, farro is paired with firm vegetables that stand up to low heat and long cooking times. If you have a slow cooker with a sauté or sear function, you can briefly brown the vegetables first for richer flavor, then set them aside to be added to the dish in step 2.

- 1 cup farro, rinsed and drained
- 3/4 cups low-sodium vegetable broth
- 1 cup halved Brussels sprouts
- 4 medium carrots, peeled and sliced 3/4-inch thick (11/4 cups)
- ½ medium fennel bulb, cored and cut into ½-inch dice (1¼ cups), fronds reserved
- 1½ tsp. dried rosemary
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 orange, peeled and cut into pieces (1 cup)
- 3 green onions, sliced (½ cup)
- 2 Tbs. lemon juice
- 1 Stir together farro and broth in slow cooker. Cover, and cook on high 1 hour.
- 2 Combine Brussels sprouts, carrots, fennel, rosemary, and salt in large bowl, then place vegetables on top of farro.

 Cover with lid, adjust slow cooker setting to low, and cook 2 to 3 hours, or until vegetables are tender.
- 3 Let slow cooker stand, uncovered, 10 minutes. Fluff farro mixture with fork, and transfer to serving bowl. Garnish with orange pieces, green onions, and fennel fronds, and drizzle with lemon juice.

PER 1-CUP SERVING 164 cal; 6 g prot; <1 g total fat (<1 g sat fat); 34 g carb; 0 mg chol; 375 mg sod; 7 g fiber; 6 g sugars

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of fat.

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Your Almased Diet Plan

Week 1

Replace all 3 meals with an Almased shake (8 Tbsp Almased and 1-2 tsp of oil mixed in 10-12 oz of liquid each). In addition, drink plenty of vegetable broth.



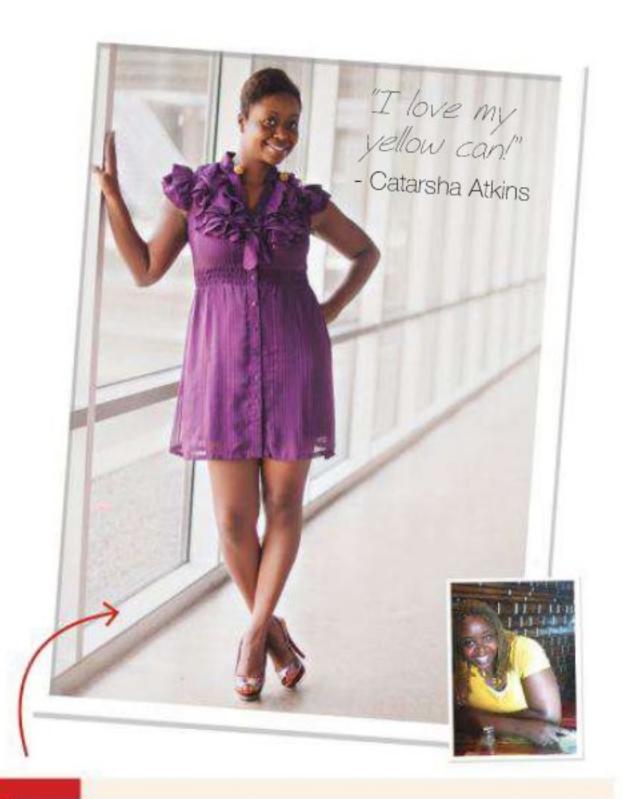
Week 2 and Beyond

Replace 2 meals, preferably breakfast and dinner, with an Almased shake and have 1 healthy meal with lots of vegetables, lean protein, and a side of whole grains.



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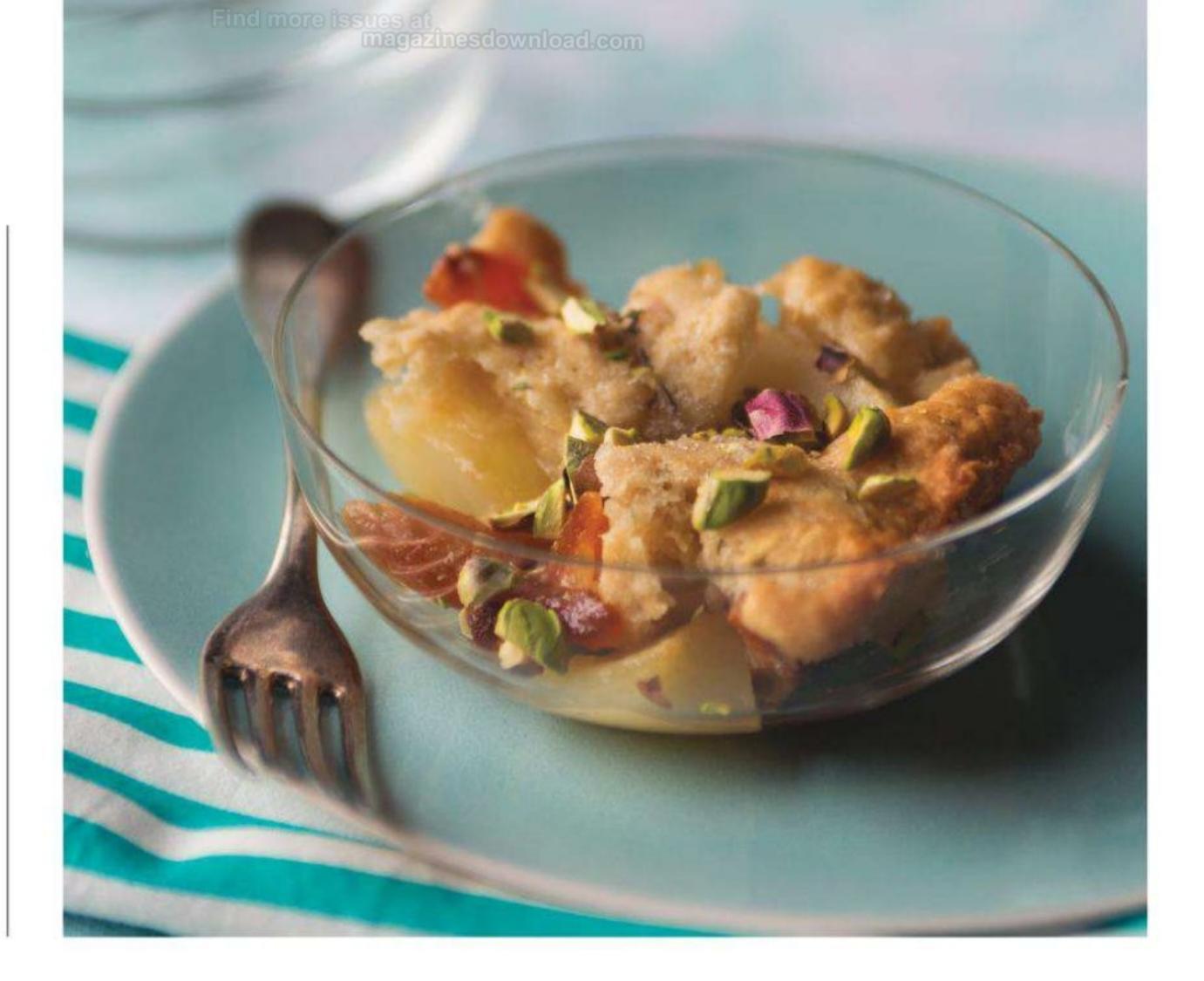
TECHNIQUE P



MORE THINGS TO TRY IN A SLOW COOKER

•••••

- 1. Oatmeal
- 2. Applesauce
- 3. Jam
- 4. Fondue
- **5.** Vegetable broth
- 6. Dried beans
- 7. Mulled cider



Warm Pear-Pistachio Cobbler

SERVES 9

This easy dessert was designed for a smaller (3- to 4-quart) slow cooker. If you're using a larger model, double the recipe to ensure you have enough topping to cover the cobbler.

FILLING

- 4 large, firm Bartlett pears, peeled, cored, and quartered
- 3/4 cup dried apricots
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1½ Tbs. all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbs. lemon juice
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg

TOPPING

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 Tbs. plus ½ tsp. sugar, divided
- 1½ tsp. chopped fresh thyme, optional
- 1½ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 3 Tbs. shortening, such as Earth Balance, chilled and cut into small pieces
- ⅓ cup cold rice milk
- ½ cup roasted, salted pistachios, roughly chopped, for garnish

- 1 To make Filling: Spray inside of 3- or 4-qt. slow cooker with cooking spray.

 Toss together all ingredients in large bowl.

 Transfer to slow cooker.
- 2 To make Topping: Whisk together flour, 2 Tbs. sugar, thyme (if using), baking powder, and salt in bowl. Cut or rub shortening into flour until it resembles coarse meal. Stir in rice milk. Dot pieces of dough over fruit mixture. Lightly spray with cooking spray, and sprinkle with remaining ½ tsp. sugar.
- 3 Place single layer of paper towel across top of slow cooker, extending over edges, and securing with lid. Cook 2½ to 3½ hours on high, or until Topping is puffed. Turn off slow cooker; remove lid and paper towel. Allow cobbler to sit, uncovered, 10 minutes, before serving. Garnish with pistachios.

PER ½-CUP SERVING 298 cal; 3 g prot;
7 g total fat (2 g sat fat); 57 g carb; 0 mg chol;
176 mg sod; 4 g fiber; 30 g sugars

eas!

CONVERSION

A casserole that takes one hour in the oven will take three to four hours in a slow cooker set on high or six to eight hours set on low. To convert any recipe cooking time from a conventional oven or stove top to the slow cooker, use these formulas:

SLOW COOKER

LOW SETTING

MULTIPLY OVEN/STOVE TIME

BY 6 TO 8.

SLOW COOKER
HIGH SETTING
MULTIPLY OVEN/STOVE TIME
BY 3 TO 4.



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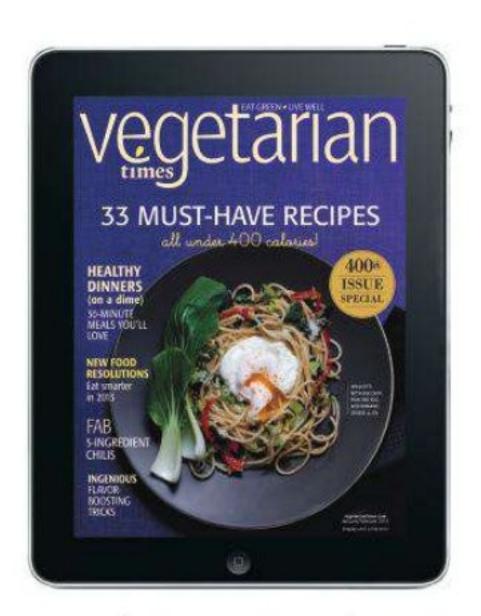
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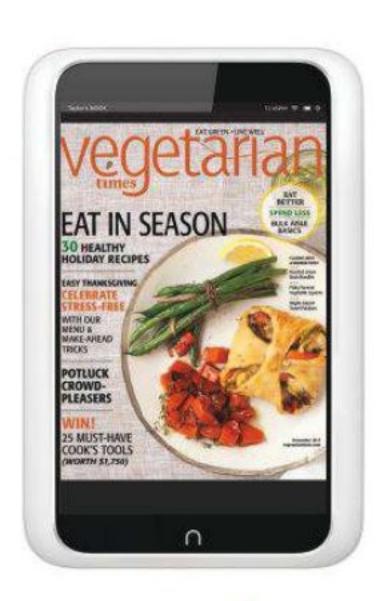


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Slow Cooker Squash Gratin

SERVES 6

Slow cookers offer an energy-saving way to cook gratins, which usually need an hour of oven time. Double the recipe if your cooker's capacity exceeds 4 quarts.

- 2 Tbs. unsalted butter
- 3 Tbs. all-purpose flour
- 11/4 tsp. salt, divided
 - 1 cup whole milk
 - 1 chipotle chile in adobo sauce, drained and minced (1 Tbs.)
 - 1 cup shredded Gouda cheese, divided (3½ oz.)
 - 2 small acorn squash, peeled, quartered, and sliced ¾-inch thick
 - 1 medium leek, halved, light green and white parts cut into 1-inch pieces (1 cup)
- 1½ Tbs. chopped fresh sage
- 3 cloves garlic, minced (1 Tbs.)
- 3 Tbs. Italian-seasoned panko breadcrumbs



THE PAPER TOWEL TRICK Placing a paper towel between the lid and the food in the slow cooker absorbs steam and moisture so "baked" dishes such as cobblers and gratins won't get soggy.

- 1 Spray inside of 3- to 4-qt. slow cooker with cooking spray. Add butter, cover, and heat on high 10 minutes, or until butter is melted.
- 2 Whisk flour and ¼ tsp. salt into butter 1 minute, or until smooth. Gradually add ¼ cup milk, whisking constantly 2 minutes, or until completely blended. Whisk in remaining ¾ cup milk and minced chipotle. Stir in ¾ cup Gouda. Cover, and cook 15 minutes, until cheese is almost melted and slow cooker is hot.
- 3 Meanwhile, combine squash, leek, sage, garlic, and remaining 1 tsp. salt in large bowl.
- 4 | Uncover slow cooker, and whisk sauce 2 minutes, or until smooth. Stir squash

mixture into sauce. Place single layer of paper towel across top of slow cooker, extending over edges, and securing with lid. Adjust slow cooker setting to low, and cook 3 to 4 hours, or until squash is tender. Turn off slow cooker, and remove lid and paper towel.

Sprinkle remaining ¼ cup Gouda, and then breadcrumbs, over gratin; spray with cooking spray. Cook, uncovered, 5 minutes before serving.

PER 1-CUP SERVING 198 cal; 7 g prot; 10 g total fat (6 g sat fat); 21 g carb; 33 mg chol; 682 mg sod; 3 g fiber; 3 g sugars

Joyce Sangirardi is a Brooklyn, N.Y.-based food stylist and recipe developer.

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Lemon-Almond Soufflés

SERVES 6

There's nothing intimidating about these zesty soufflés, just be sure to grease the sides of the ramekins up to the rim so they'll rise fully in the oven.



- 2 tsp. coconut oil
- 4 large eggs, separated
- 3 Tbs. honey, softened
- 1 organic lemon, zested and juiced (1 Tbs. zest, 3 Tbs. juice)
- 3 Tbs. almond meal
- 1/4 tsp. salt

- 1 | Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease six 4-oz. ovenproof ramekins with coconut oil up to rim. Chill ramekins in refrigerator.
- 2 Whisk together 3 egg yolks, honey, lemon zest, lemon juice, and almond meal in medium bowl. (Reserve extra egg yolk for another use.)
- 3 Beat 4 egg whites and salt with electric mixer until stiff peaks form. Fold meringue into egg yolk mixture with spatula.
- 4 | Fill ramekins two-thirds full, and bake 10 to 12 minutes, or until puffy and golden brown. Serve immediately.

PER SOUFFLÉ 106 cal; 5 g prot; 6 g total fat (2 g sat fat); 11 g carb; 92 mg chol; 139 mg sod; <1 g fiber; 9 g sugars





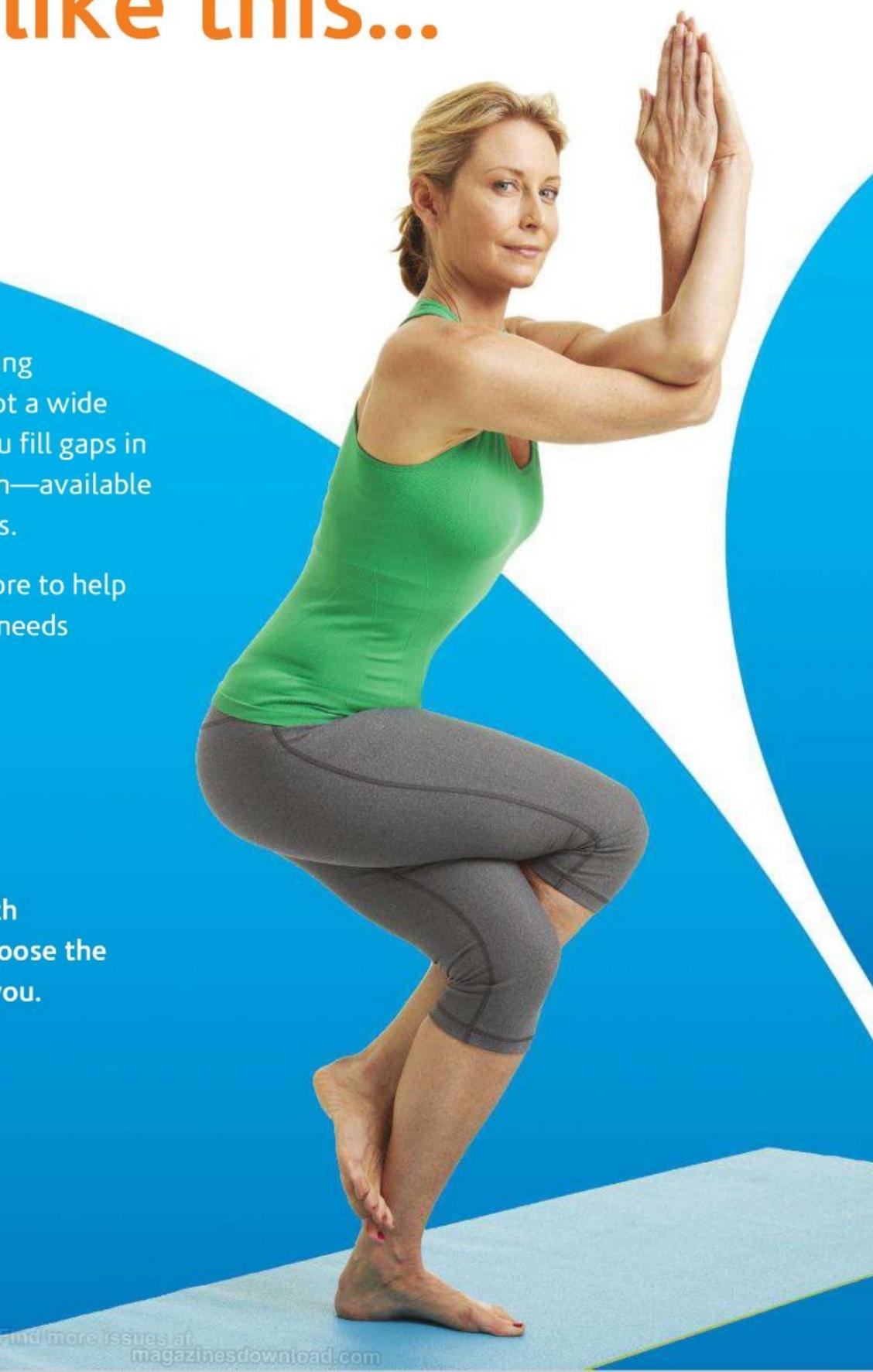
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Mango Pistachio Cardamom Ice Cream

EASY POOES IT

SERVES 6

Take a sweet trip to India with this easy frozen treat, spiked with green cardamom and nuggets of pistachio. Silken tofu makes it extra creamy and smooth with no dairy. Grinding the seeds from whole cardamom pods offers the freshest flavor—look for the pods at spice purveyors and gourmet kitchenware stores.

- large, ripe mango (1 lb.), peeled and cut into chunks
- ⅓ cup sugar
- cup drained soft silken tofu
- pods green cardamom, split, seeds removed and finely ground, or 1 pinch ground cardamom
- pinch salt
- ½ cup dry-roasted unsalted shelled pistachios, chopped
- 1 Blend mango, sugar, tofu, cardamom, and salt in blender until smooth. Cover, and refrigerate until chilled.
- 2 | Freeze mixture in ice cream maker according to manufacturer's instructions. Once ice cream is set, fold in pistachios.

PER 1/2-CUP SERVING 148 cal; 4 g prot; 6 g total fat (<1 g sat fat); 23 g carb; 0 mg chol; 26 mg sod; 2 g fiber; 19 g sugars W @





SERVES 6

The French love to assemble single-serving desserts in glasses, and this easy Charlotte makes for an elegant treat. Dried lavender teases floral notes out of the pears.

- tsp. dried lavender flowers
- cup sugar, divided
- cup plain reducedfat Greek-style yogurt
- lb. ripe pears (3 medium), peeled, cored, and quartered
- ladyfinger cookies (about 5.3 oz.), halved

- 1 | Set out six 5-oz. glasses for filling.
- 2 | Finely grind lavender with 3/4 tsp. sugar using mortar and pestle. Stir into yogurt, and set aside.
- 3 | Bring remaining sugar and 1½ cups water to a simmer in medium saucepan. Add pears, and simmer 2 minutes. Lift pears from syrup with slotted spoon, reserving syrup. Dice pears. Divide into six portions on cutting board.
- 4 To assemble Charlottes: Dip ladyfinger halves briefly in syrup, plain side down, and arrange in glasses, placing 1 piece flat in bottom of each glass, and standing 4 pieces around sides of each glass (plain side facing inward). Scoop 1 Tbs. yogurt in center of each serving, top with one-sixth of pears, 1-Tbs. dollop yogurt, and 1 more dipped ladyfinger half, plain side down.
- 5 | Chill Charlottes 2 hours, or overnight. Remove from refrigerator 20 minutes before serving.

PER ½-CUP SERVING 214 cal; 5 g prot; 3 g total fat (1 g sat fat); 43 g carb; 57 mg chol; 47 mg sod; 2 g fiber; 25 g sugars



Apples and dates come together beautifully in this low-fat crisp. You can mix and match apple varieties for more flavor complexity.

- ½ cup old-fashioned oats
- Tbs. olive oil
- Tbs. sugar
- tsp. salt
- large baking apples, peeled, cored, and diced (1 lb.)
- Medjool dates, pitted and chopped

- 1 | Preheat oven to 350°F, and set out six 4-oz. ovenproof ramekins.
- 2 | Pulse oats in food processor until coarsely ground. Combine oats, oil, sugar, and salt in small bowl.
- 3 | Combine apples and dates in medium bowl, divide among ramekins, and top with oat mixture. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, until apples are softened and topping is golden brown. Let cool at least 15 minutes before serving.

PER 1/2-CUP SERVING 146 cal; 2 g prot; 5 g total fat (<1 g sat fat);

26 g carb; 0 mg chol; 100 mg sod; 3 g fiber; 19 g sugars







NOTTONIGHT, I'M TOO TIRED.

WHEN "I'M TOO TIRED" IS MORE THAN JUST AN EXCUSE.

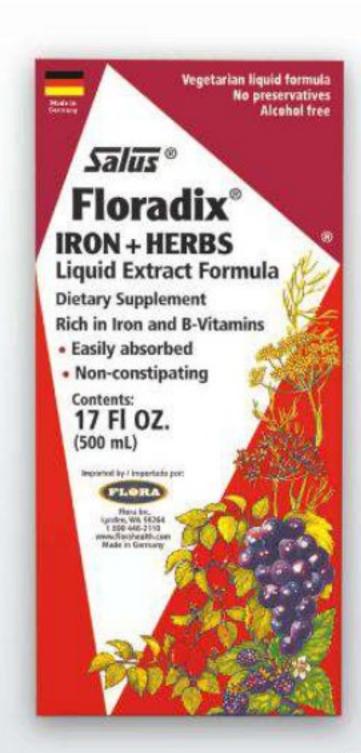
We've all faked a headache or used the excuse "I'm too tired" but the truth is many of us really are too tired...too tired for a little romance, too tired for exercise, and too tired to concentrate. Life is busy and trying to juggle family and work can leave you feeling exhausted and run-down...especially if you are iron deficient. Never mind the fact that those dark circles under your eyes and pale skin can leave you feeling unattractive. When going to bed early is your idea of a "good time", it's time for a change. Floradix is an easily absorbed, plant-based, nonconstipating, liquid iron supplement with no artificial additives or preservatives and has been helping women reclaim their energy for over 60 years.* So redefine your definition of a "good time" with Floradix and rekindle the romance.



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EASY POOES IT

Dark Chocolate Mousse, Three Ways

SERVES 6

One recipe, three different desserts. This chocolate mousse can be chilled and served as-is, frozen into a creamy sorbet, or baked into a hot-from-the-oven molten chocolate cake. Recipe excerpted from *The French Market Cookbook: Vegetarian Recipes from My Parisian Kitchen*, by Clotilde Dusoulier. Reprinted with permission of Clarkson Potter.



- 9 oz. bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 6 extra-large egg whites
- ½ tsp. cream of tartar
- 1 pinch salt
- 3 Tbs. unrefined blond cane sugar or evaporated cane juice
- ⅓ cup cacao nibs, optional
- 1 Melt chocolate in double boiler, transfer to medium bowl, and set aside to cool.
- 2 Beat egg whites, cream of tartar, and salt with electric mixer on medium speed 3 minutes, or until frothy. Add sugar, increase speed to medium-high, and beat 3 to 4 minutes more, or until egg whites form stiff, glossy peaks.

- 3 | Stir one-sixth of egg whites into melted chocolate. Fold in remaining egg whites in five more additions with rubber spatula, until incorporated. Halfway through, fold in cacao nibs (if using).
- 4 To make Chocolate Mousse: Pour mixture into 3-cup bowl or six ½-cup ramekins or glasses. Cover, and chill at least 4 hours, or overnight.
- 5 | To make Chocolate Sorbet: Freeze chilled mousse in freezer overnight.
- 6 To make Molten Chocolate Cakes: Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat six ½-cup ovenproof ramekins with cooking spray. Bake cakes 12 minutes, or until tops are set and cracked. Let stand 5 to 10 minutes before serving.

PER SERVING 257 cal; 9 g prot; 18 g total fat (11 g sat fat); 26 g carb; 0 mg chol; 92 mg sod; 5 g fiber; 18 g sugars





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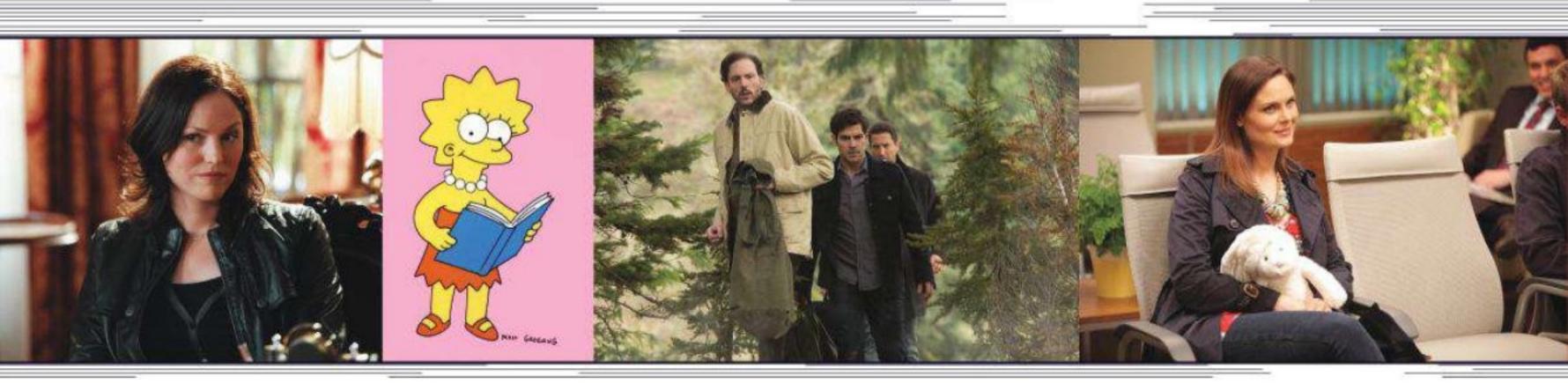
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BY Alexa Joy Sherman

TELEVISION IS SHOWING VEGETARIAN CHARACTERS IN A NEW LIGHT

PRIMETIME



FOR Peggies

Like any group going against the mainstream, vegetarians have often struggled to be taken seriously. It wasn't so long ago that some of television's most popular shows resorted to rolling out a veg character (or, rather, caricature) to elicit a laugh. "It's always been easy to tack the vegetarian label onto a character to further accentuate their eccentricity," says Brittany Shoot, contributor to the *Cultural Encyclopedia of Vegetarianism*. Cases in point: Phoebe Buffay on *Friends* and Darlene Conner on *Roseanne*. "They were stereotypical portrayals, with Darlene being the rebellious teenager and Phoebe being kind of quirky and eccentric," says Beverly Kaskey, senior director of the Humane Society of the United States's Hollywood Outreach, presenter of the Genesis Awards, which recognizes news and entertainment media for spotlighting animal protection issues.

But the times they are a-changing. Now, "smart" and "respected" are qualities that Jane Dollinger, senior media liaison for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, sees in vegetarians and vegans depicted on TV. The result? "Viewers are subtly prompted to think more about social issues and make changes in their lives," Dollinger says. Also, as plant-based diets have become not just accepted but also embraced by more people, including the actors, writers, and producers working in television, more veggie characters are filling main roles. "This tells us that vegetarianism and veganism are becoming a part of the taken-for-granted social fabric," says Arlington, Mass.-based sociologist Donna Maurer, PhD, author of *Vegetarianism: Movement or Moment?* What's more, being meat-free is an inherent part of who the characters are and helps to define them in positive ways, notes Kaskey. Consider the following four—who aren't just ready for, but rocking, prime time.



long-running animated series The Simpsons, Lisa Simpson is known for being smart, eco-conscious, and compassionate. In the 1995 episode "Lisa the Vegetarian," the Simpsons visit a petting zoo, and Lisa subsequently finds herself haunted by the little lamb she met there and unable to eat meat. Ridiculed by friends and family for her protests, she runs away and winds up at the Kwik-E-Mart, where she encounters Paul and Linda McCartney. Together with storekeeper Apu (revealed to be a vegan), the McCartneys help Lisa embrace her new beliefs while still respecting others' views.

The episode was partly informed by the experiences of The Simpsons producer David Mirkin, who was going vegetarian around the same time. "I'd recently seen film footage about factory farming, and I was never thrilled with the idea of eating animals," says Mirkin, who was thrilled with the idea of getting Paul McCartney to make a cameo. "His only request was to keep Lisa a vegetarian, and I was very happy with that. It was so true to who she is, and we've explored

that aspect of her character several times since." Meeting the McCartneys also made Mirkin's vegetarian conversion complete. "I was still eating a small amount of fish, and Linda said to me, 'You know, it's not seafood—it's sea life," he recalls. "I was able to get completely off fish soon after that." Of course The Simpsons's top priority has always been making people laugh, and nobody (vegetarian or omnivore) was spared in the episode, but Mirkin was happy to make a deeper impression on a lot of viewers too. "The reaction to the show was terrific," he says. "So many people have told me that it was responsible for their own switch to vegetarianism."

READER FAVE

66 LISA FROM THE SIMPSONS. SHE IS A GIFTED YOUNG LADY, AND MADE A VERY HEALTHY, CONSCIOUS DECISION TO GO AGAINST THE GRAIN. 99

MATT GROENING

-Ellie DeMilt, via Facebook



LONE WOLF

Based loosely on the dark fairy tales penned by the Brothers Grimm, the NBC crime series *Grimm* follows Portland, Ore., homicide detective Nick Burkhardt, who discovers he's descended from a long line of hunters capable of seeing, and slaying, gruesome supernatural creatures—which he does alongside trusty but reluctant sidekick **Monroe**, a reformed "Blutbad" (the show's name for the Big, Bad Wolf). In a modern-day twist, Monroe suppresses his predatory urges through a combination of Pilates, vitamins, and—yes!—adhering to a strict plant-based diet.

According to series co-creators Jim Kouf and David Greenwalt, Monroe's going meat-free compares with an alcoholic giving up drinking. "He can't go near meat because he's trying to keep this aggression, particularly toward humans, at bay," Greenwalt says. Alas, fighting those primal desires isn't always easy. "When my old flame, Angelina, showed up, she lured me back out to the hunt," recalls Silas Weir Mitchell, who plays Monroe. "I awoke next to a rabbit carcass, smeared with blood. Serious backsliding!"

Although Mitchell isn't veg, he acknowledges that playing Monroe has influenced his choices: "Going without



READER FAVE

66 MONROE FROM GRIMM. HE EXHIBITS A REAL KNOWLEDGE OF NUTRITIONALLY HEALTHY FOODS. 99 –Julie Meek, via Facebook

meat lightens the load on my system, and it feels good to do that every so often." About veganism, he says, "It's an ethical choice more people are making, and I think it's an important component of human progress." It's this philosophy, say the show's creators, that makes Monroe such a compelling character.

"When faced with his own nature and traditions, Monroe realizes they no longer make sense in a modern world," says Kouf. "He's almost become the most human character on the show, because he's trying so hard to stay in touch with his true humanity," adds Greenwalt.

Time on Our Side

Like the hardiest vegetation, the list of TV characters embracing a plant-based diet just keeps growing.

1966 Spock (Leonard Nimoy) Star Trek	1991 Darlene Conner (Sara Gilbert) Roseanne	1993 Topanga Lawrence (Danielle Fishel) Boy Meets World	1994 Phoebe Buffay (Lisa Kudrow) Friends	1995 Lisa Simpson (Yeardley Smith) The Simpsons	1996 Maggie Doyle (Jorja Fox) ER
1997 Abby O'Neil (Mimi Kennedy) Dharma & Greg	1998 Valerry Irons (Pamela Anderson) VIP	2000 Sara Sidle (Jorja Fox) CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	2002 Lisa Kimmel Fisher (Lili Taylor) Six Feet Under	2005 Angela Martin (Angela Kinsey) The Office	2005 Dr. Temperance Brennan (Emily Deschanel) Bones
2009 Rachel Berry (Lea Michele) Glee	2010 Aria Montgomery (Lucy Hale) Pretty Little Liars	2010 Nikita (Maggie Q) Nikita	2010 Gale Boetticher (David Costabile) Breaking Bad	2011 Monroe (Silas Weir Mitchell) Grimm	2011 Stephen Holder (Joel Kinnaman) The Killing



CRIME SCENE CRUSADERS

Sara Sidle became a vegetarian on the CBS juggernaut CSI: Crime Scene Investigation thanks in part to actor Jorja Fox's own plant-based preferences. "It was very early in the run of the show, when a pig was used to calculate how long a woman had been dead," Fox says. "I asked the writer if they would be using a fake pig, and he asked if I was a vegetarian." When Fox said she was, the writer suggested he make Fox's character a vegetarian. "Of course it worked because it was an authentic choice for Sara," Fox notes. "It suits her character." Not only did Sara become vegetarian during that episode, they did indeed use a fake pig. "We had him created for the episode," adds Fox, "and he's made several cameos since." That was a relief for Fox, an animal rights activist who's endeavored to bring the issue of animal welfare to light on the show. "CSI has done several animal welfare stories over the years, including ones about dog fighting and canned hunting [where people pay to





READER FAVE

66 TEMPERANCE BRENNAN ON BONES. SHE'S A SCIENTIST AND UNDERSTANDS NOT ONLY THE ETHICS OF NOT EATING MEAT, BUT ALSO THE FACT THAT THERE ARE NO ADVERSE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES FOR HUMANS. 99

-Katrina Voss, via Facebook

kill animals on private hunting reserves or game ranches]," she says. Actor Emily Deschanel, who plays forensic anthropologist Dr. Temperance Brennan (aka "Bones") on the Fox series Bones, has had a similar impact on her show's story lines. "We've done a few episodes discussing issues such as exotic animals as pets, dog fighting, and factory farms," says Deschanel, a longtime vegan and advocate for animals. Also similar to CSI's consideration of Fox's preferences, Bones—which can be grisly at times—is sensitive to Deschanel's ethical code. "We did an episode about a body that's found inside a meat stew, but they made the [prop] stew completely vegan," Deschanel says. Although Deschanel is vegan for ethical reasons, her character became vegetarian for health reasons-following several episodes set in the world of food production, notes series creator Hart Hanson. "Brennan feels things deeply but wishes she didn't, so she must always find a totally rational reason for acting on her feelings," Hanson says. "Vegetarianism is a supremely rational choice in terms of human health, ecology, and our ability to feed everyone on the planet."

Like Lisa Simpson, Los Angeles-based writer Alexa Joy Sherman believes that you can, in fact, win friends with salad.







PHOTOGRAPHY Victoria Wall Harris FOOD STYLING Vivian Lui PROP STYLING Scott Horne



SEASON TO TASTE

GRAIN SALADS MAY LOSE SOME OF THEIR SEASON-INGS' FLAVOR AFTER THEY'VE BEEN CHILLED. TAKE A BITE, AND AD-JUST THE SEASONINGS BEFORE PACKING TO GO.

Bulgur Salad with Edamame and Kumquats

Mint and kumquats lend a spring feel to a colorful bulgur salad. If you can't find kumquats, dried apricots provide the same sweet-tart element.

- ½ cup bulgur
- 2 Tbs. lemon juice
- ½ tsp. finely grated orange zest
- 1½ Tbs. orange juice
- 1½ Tbs. olive oil
- 1½ Tbs. chopped fresh parsley
- 1½ Tbs. chopped fresh mint
- ²⁄₃ cup cooked, shelled edamame
- 1 small carrot, thinly sliced
- 4 kumquats, seeded and sliced, or ⅓ cup diced dried apricots

- 2 radishes, thinly sliced
- 2 Tbs. pumpkin seeds
- 1 Pour 1 cup boiling water over bulgur in bowl. Cover, and let stand 10 minutes. Drain in strainer, pressing out excess liquid with back of spoon. Return bulgur to bowl, and cool 5 minutes.
- 2 | Stir lemon juice, orange zest, orange juice, oil, parsley, mint, edamame, carrot, kumquats, and radishes into bulgur. Season with salt and pepper, if desired, and divide between two containers. Top each salad with pumpkin seeds. Refrigerate overnight.

PER 1¼-CUP SERVING 329 cal; 12 g prot;

13 g total fat (2 g sat fat); 45 g carb; 0 mg chol; 32 mg sod; 13 g fiber;

7 g sugars 🖤



Orange, Onion, and Olive Salad

Inspired by a Sicilian salad of oranges and onions, this dish stays fresh for several days in the refrigerator. Blanching the onion rings tones down their pungency so they don't overpower the other flavors.

- 1/2 red onion, sliced into 1/8-inch-thick rings
- 3 navel oranges
- 4 tsp. sherry vinegar
- 2 Tbs. olive oil
- ½ cup cooked chickpeas
- 12 pitted black olives
- 4 cup cubed feta cheese (1 oz.)
- 4 packed cups torn romaine lettuce leaves



HOT FOODS

cool foods before packing them so steam and excess moisture don't make them mushy.

PACK foods in roomy containers so they heat quickly without making a mess.

CHOOSE recipes that will taste just as good served cold, in case you have to eat your meal that way.

- 1 Place onion rings in bowl, cover with boiling water, and let stand 30 seconds. Drain in strainer, and rinse under cold water.
- 2 Remove pith and peel from oranges with paring knife. Slice into ½-inch-thick rounds, and cut rounds into quarters. Reserve juice.
- 3 Divide reserved orange juice between two 1-quart canning jars. Whisk 2 tsp. vinegar and 1 Tbs. oil into each jar, and season with salt and pepper, if desired. Equally divide and layer all remaining ingredients in jars: oranges on the bottom, then chickpeas, olives, feta, romaine, and onions. Store in refrigerator overnight.

PER 2½-CUP SERVING 385 cal; 9 g prot; 21 g total fat (5 g sat fat); 43 g carb; 13 mg chol; 452 mg sod; 11 g fiber; 24 g sugars

Mini Roasted Cauliflower Chilaquiles

SERVES 2

These little casseroles are a snap to assemble once you've roasted the cauliflower. Poblano chiles can range from mild to quite hot, so if you want to play it safe and keep the dish relatively mild, substitute Anaheim peppers.

- 1 1½-lb. head cauliflower, trimmed and cut into florets (4 cups)
- 1 Tbs. olive oil
- 2 poblano chiles, halved lengthwise
- ³⁄₃ cup canned, vegetarian refried black beans, such as Amy's
- 12 unsalted corn tortilla chips (1 oz.)
- 3/4 cup prepared mild tomatillo salsa
- 4 Tbs. grated Monterey Jack cheese (1 oz.)
- 1 Preheat oven to 450°F. Mound cauliflower on rimmed baking sheet, and toss with oil. Spread in single layer on one side of baking sheet, and season with salt and pepper, if desired. Spread chiles skin side up on empty side of baking sheet. Roast 30 minutes, or until cauliflower is browned and chiles are charred. Cool. Remove skins and seeds from chiles, and cut into ½-inch pieces.
- 2 To assemble: Layer half of ingredients in each of two microwavesafe containers, starting with beans on bottom, followed by chiles, cauliflower, tortilla chips, salsa, and cheese. Cover, and refrigerate overnight.
- 3 | Just before serving, heat in microwave until cheese melts and casserole is heated all the way through.

 PER CASSEROLE 341 cal; 15 g prot; 14 g total fat (4 g sat fat); 43 g carb; 15 mg chol; 629 mg sod; 12 g fiber; 7 g sugars

HOW TO TAME RAW ONION A QUICK DIP IN BOILING WATER TAKES THE EDGE OFF ONION FLAVOR WITHOUT SACRIFICING TOO MUCH CRUNCH.



TASTE-FRESH TIPS

SANDWICHES

CHOOSE hearty breads such as whole-grain slices or crisp-crusted rolls that stand up to moist fillings.

BUILD edible barriers between bread and fillings to further prevent sogginess. Crisp lettuce, butter, or margarine can help keep bread dry.

SEED tomatoes before slicing to eliminate excess moisture.

HALVE sandwiches for easier eating. This also lets you manage your portions and eat only half on the days when you're not very hungry or planning a splurgy dinner or dessert.

ALL KINDS OF LEFTOVER **OMELETS** OR FRITTATAS MAKE

GREAT SANDWICH FILLINGS.

Spinach and Goat Cheese **Baked Omelet Sandwiches**

SERVES 2 | 30 MINUTES OR FEWER If you are in an egg salad rut, here's a new taste for a new season. Savory bits of leeks, peas, and spinach remind us that spring is just around the corner.

- tsp. olive oil
- medium leek, thinly sliced
- packed cups baby spinach leaves (3 oz.)
- large eggs
- Tbs. low-fat milk
- ½ cup frozen peas
- 4 Tbs. crumbled goat cheese (2 oz.)
- 2 Tbs. chopped parsley, optional
- 4 slices multigrain bread
- Preheat oven to 350°F.
- 2 | Heat oil in small ovenproof nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add leek, and sauté 5 minutes, or until soft. Stir in 3/4 cup spinach, and cook 30 seconds, or until wilted. Remove from heat.
- 3 Whisk together eggs and milk in bowl. Stir in peas, goat cheese, and parsley (if using). Season with salt and pepper, if desired. Add egg mixture to spinach in skillet, and stir to combine.
- 4 Transfer skillet to oven, and bake omelet 15 minutes, or until eggs are set. Cool to room temperature, and transfer to cutting board. Slice into sandwich-size strips.
- 5 | Arrange omelet slices atop 2 pieces of bread. Top with remaining spinach and bread slices. Halve sandwiches, and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate overnight.

PER SANDWICH 390 cal; 25 g prot; 19 g total fat (6 g sat fat); 36 g carb; 390 mg chol; 477 mg sod; 10 g fiber; 6 g sugars

Sweet-and-Sour Baked Tofu Sandwiches

SERVES 2

Stuff marinated, baked tofu into a crusty roll with crunchy cabbage, refrigerate it, then grab it on your way out the door the next morning for an on-the-go version of a Vietnamese bahn mi sandwich.

- 1½ Tbs. low-sodium soy sauce
- Tbs. lime juice
- Tbs. Thai sweet red chile sauce
- Tbs. olive oil
- ½ tsp. brown sugar
- 1/2 14-oz. pkg. extra-firm tofu, cut into 6 slices and patted dry
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- 2 Tbs. coarsely chopped roasted, unsalted peanuts
- 1 Tbs. grated fresh ginger
- 1½ cups finely shredded red cabbage
- 2 4-inch ciabatta rolls, halved lengthwise
- 1 Preheat oven to 400°F. Lightly oil 8-inch square baking dish.
- 2 Whisk together soy sauce, lime juice, chile sauce, oil, and brown sugar in medium bowl. Add tofu slices to bowl. Marinate 10 minutes, turning twice.
- 3 | Transfer marinated tofu to baking dish. Sprinkle with green onions, peanuts, and ginger. Spoon all but 1½ Tbs. marinade over top. Bake 30 minutes, or until golden. Cool.
- 4 Toss cabbage with reserved 1½ Tbs. marinade in bowl.
- 5 | Hollow out excess bread from center of rolls, and discard. Place 3 tofu slices on bottom half of each roll, and top with cabbage. Close sandwiches, cut in half, and wrap tightly in plastic wrap. Store overnight in refrigerator.

PER SANDWICH 358 cal; 18 g prot; 14 g total fat (2 g sat fat); 40 g carb; 0 mg chol; 748 mg sod; 5 g fiber; 8 g sugars 🖤 🌶



Sally Pasley Vargas is a Boston-based cookbook author, cooking teacher, and freelance writer.







Thai-Style Green Papaya Salad

Delicately flavored white miso paste stands in for fish sauce in this classic Southeast Asian starter.

- 3 cups shredded or julienned green papaya
- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 5 Tbs. unsalted peanuts, crushed, divided

- 5 cloves garlic, minced (5 tsp.)
- 2 tsp. white miso paste
- 1½ tsp. light brown sugar
- 15 steamed green beans, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 Thai bird chile or ½ serrano chile, thinly sliced
- 8 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 4 tsp. thinly sliced green onion, optional
- 1 | Soak shredded papaya 10 minutes in 3 cups cold water. Drain.

- **2** | Meanwhile, purée lime juice, 1 Tbs. peanuts, garlic, miso, and brown sugar in food processor. Season with salt, if desired.
- 3 | Combine miso mixture with papaya, green beans, and chile in large bowl. Add tomatoes, and mix gently. Sprinkle each serving with 1 Tbs. peanuts and 1 tsp. green onion (if using).

PER 1-CUP SERVING 129 cal; 5 g prot; 6 g total fat (<1 g sat fat); 17 g carb; 0 mg chol; 92 mg sod; 3 g fiber; 8 g sugars







Grilled Papaya Rings

SERVES 4 | 30 MINUTES OR FEWER Throw a few papaya rings on a grill pan for a fast dessert.

- 1/4 cup honey
- Tbs. lemon juice
- Tbs. grated fresh ginger
- 2 large ripe papayas, peeled, sliced into 1/2-inch-thick rings, and seeded
- 1 cup vanilla ice cream
- 1 Stir together honey, lemon juice, and ginger in small bowl. Brush both sides of papaya rings with glaze.
- 2 | Heat grill pan over medium-high heat. Add papaya to pan. Grill 30 seconds on each side.
- 3 | Remove grill pan from heat, and place 2 rings on each plate. Top with ¼ cup ice cream, and spoon 1 tsp. remaining glaze over each serving.

PER SERVING 302 cal; 3 g prot; 5 g total fat (3 g sat fat); 68 g carb; 15 mg chol; 59 mg sod; 7 g fiber; 55 g sugars 😅

Tropical Scones with Papaya Glaze

MAKES 16 SCONES

Both ripe and dried papaya are used to give these scones a subtle sweetness.

SCONES

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- tsp. baking powder
- tsp. salt
- Tbs. unsalted butter
- large egg
- cup chopped dried papaya
- 1/4 cup sweetened shredded coconut, plus more for sprinkling, optional
- 1½ tsp. coconut extract
- 1 tsp. grated orange zest

GLAZE

- ½ cup chopped ripe papaya
- 3 Tbs. confectioners' sugar
- 1 To make Scones: Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat baking sheet with cooking spray.
- 2 Whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt in large bowl. Cut in butter with pastry blender or two knives until mixture resembles coarse meal.

natural digestion booster

Papain,

an enzyme found only in papayas, has been shown to aid digestion. The enzyme is heat-sensitive, so to get maximum benefits, opt for raw papaya rather than cooked.

- 3 Whisk together egg and ½ cup plus 2 Tbs. cold water together in medium bowl. Stir in dried papaya, shredded coconut, coconut extract, and orange zest in medium bowl. Add to flour mixture, stirring just until moist (dough will be sticky).
- 4 | Turn dough out onto lightly floured surface. Pat into 8-inch circle. Cut into 16 2-inch rounds, patting together scraps to make more scones. Place scones ½ inch apart on prepared baking sheet.
- 5 Bake 12 to 14 minutes, or until tops are lightly browned. Cool on wire rack.
- 6 Meanwhile, to make Glaze: purée papaya and confectioners' sugar in food processor until smooth. Spread 1 tsp. Glaze over each cooled Scone. Sprinkle with shredded coconut (if using). PER SCONE 117 cal; 2 g prot; 3 g total fat

(2 g sat fat); 20 g carb; 17 mg chol; 152 mg sod; <1 g fiber; 6 g sugars

Curried Tofu Steaks with Papaya-Avocado Salsa

SERVES 4

Papaya takes center stage in a light fruit salsa served over marinated tofu steaks.

TOFU STEAKS

- 3 Tbs. low-sodium soy sauce
- cloves garlic, minced (1 Tbs.)
- 1 14-oz. pkg. extra-firm tofu, drained and cut into 8 slabs
- 1 tsp. curry powder
- 1 lime, quartered, for garnish

SALSA

- cup diced avocado
- cup diced red bell pepper
- cup diced ripe papaya
- Tbs. lime juice

- Tbs. plus 1 tsp. chopped cilantro
- jalapeño chile, chopped (1 Tbs.)
- 1 To make Tofu Steaks: Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix soy sauce with garlic and ⅓ cup water in shallow dish. Add tofu slabs, and marinate 10 minutes. Flip, and marinate 10 minutes more.
- 2 Remove tofu from marinade, and place onto baking sheet. Sprinkle with curry powder. Bake 40 minutes, or until golden brown, turning once.
- 3 | Meanwhile, to make Salsa: Combine all ingredients in bowl. Chill.
- 4 Serve 2 Tofu Steaks topped with 3/4 cup Salsa. Garnish with lime wedges. PER SERVING 197 cal; 12 g prot; 11 g total fat (2 g sat fat); 16 g carb; 0 mg chol; 145 mg sod; 6 g fiber; 5 g sugars W

Papaya Smoothie

SERVES 2 | 30 MINUTES OR FEWER Fiber and nutrients from flaxseed plus the vitamins and digestive enzymes from papaya and pineapple juice make this smoothie a great start to any day.

- cups chopped ripe papaya
- cup unsweetened pineapple juice
- ripe banana
- Tbs. flaxseed meal

Purée papaya, pineapple juice, banana, and flaxseed meal in blender. Add 1/2 cup crushed ice, and purée until smooth.

PER 1-CUP SERVING 142 cal; 2 g prot; 2 g total fat (<1 g sat fat); 32 g carb; 0 mg chol;

14 mg sod; 5 g fiber; 21 g sugars W 🗼 🥕





Food writer Cristin Nelson lives in Boston with her husband and an enthusiastic appetite.

BY Mary Margaret Chappell

THROW TOGETHER FOUR FRIDGE- AND FREEZER-FRIENDLY ENTRÉES IN ONE FUN-FILLED AFTERNOON





Black Bean and Chile Posole

Endive Gratin

Samosa Stuffed Peppers

Crispy Tofu Fingers

DUICE System

EVERYTHING'S MORE FUN with a friend. That adage is especially true in the kitchen, where a little company can lighten the load, whether you're peeling vegetables or scrubbing pots. So why not tap into that energy, pool resources with a favorite pal, and plan an afternoon of cooking for the week ahead? We've mapped out a make-ahead strategy that results in two sets of four main dishes that each serves four people. Read on for our goof-proof recipes, tips, lists, and timetables. Now all you have to do is get together—and get cooking!

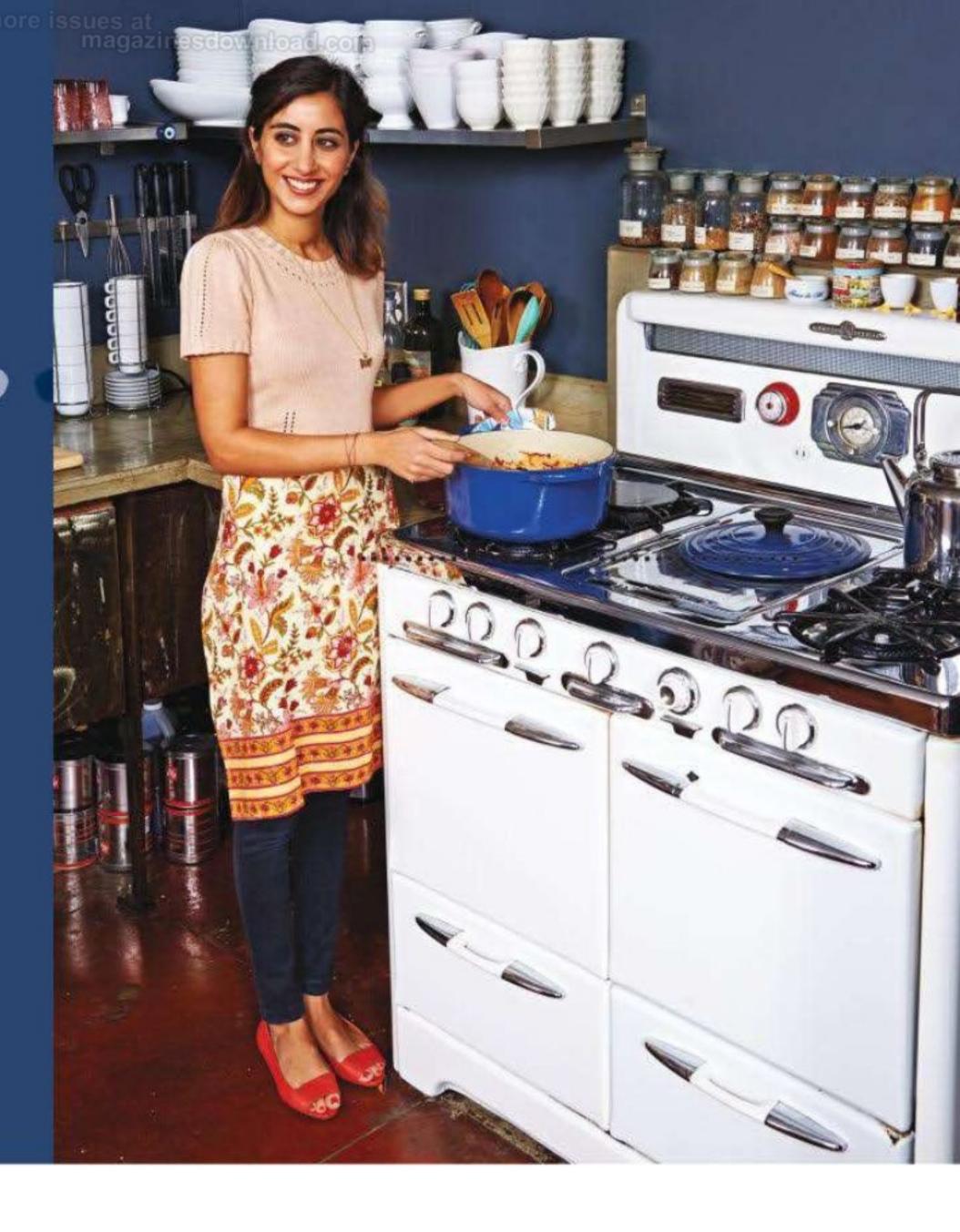
PHOTOGRAPHY Mario De Lopez FOOD STYLING Lies Maggiore PROP STYLING Scott Horne





DIVVY UP THE FOLLOWING TASKS TO HAVE ALL FOUR RECIPES READY IN ABOUT

HOURS.



- → Preheat oven to 350°F. Boil 1 gallon of water in a large pot to prepare for Sprint 2.
- ◆ Set out all pots, pans, bowls, and storage containers (see "Tools," p. 70).
- → Halve bell peppers for Samosa Stuffed Peppers, and trim endives for Endive Gratin.



- ◆ Bake bell peppers for Samosa Stuffed Peppers.
- ◆ Ladle 3 cups boiling water from pot over pasilla chiles for Black Bean and Chile Posole.
- ➡ Boil endives for Endive Gratin, then drain, and set aside to cool.
- → Slice leeks for Black Bean and Chile Posole; chop vegetables for Samosa Stuffed Peppers.







- → Prepare white sauce, assemble, and bake Endive Gratin.
- → Make filling for and assemble Samosa Stuffed Peppers.
- Start Black Bean and Chile Posole.

- Finish baking Endive Gratin.
- Simmer Black Bean and Chile Posole.
- → Assemble and bake Crispy Tofu Fingers.
- → Pack up, clean up, and get ready to relax!





STORE/SERVE

Ladle cooled posole into two 2-quart containers, and refrigerate three days or freeze up to three months. Thaw, if necessary, then warm in saucepan over medium heat until just beginning to simmer. Serve with garnishes.



Black Bean and Chile Posole

SERVES 8

The garnishes for this hearty Mexican stew make for a fun meal that lets everyone at the table customize their serving according to taste.

POSOLE

- 2 4- to 5-inch dried pasilla chiles
- 2 medium leeks, white and light green parts cut into 2-inch chunks
- 2 Tbs. olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced (4 tsp.)
- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 2 15-oz. cans white hominy, rinsed and drained
- 2 15-oz. cans black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 15-oz. can fire-roasted diced tomatoes

GARNISHES (OPTIONAL)

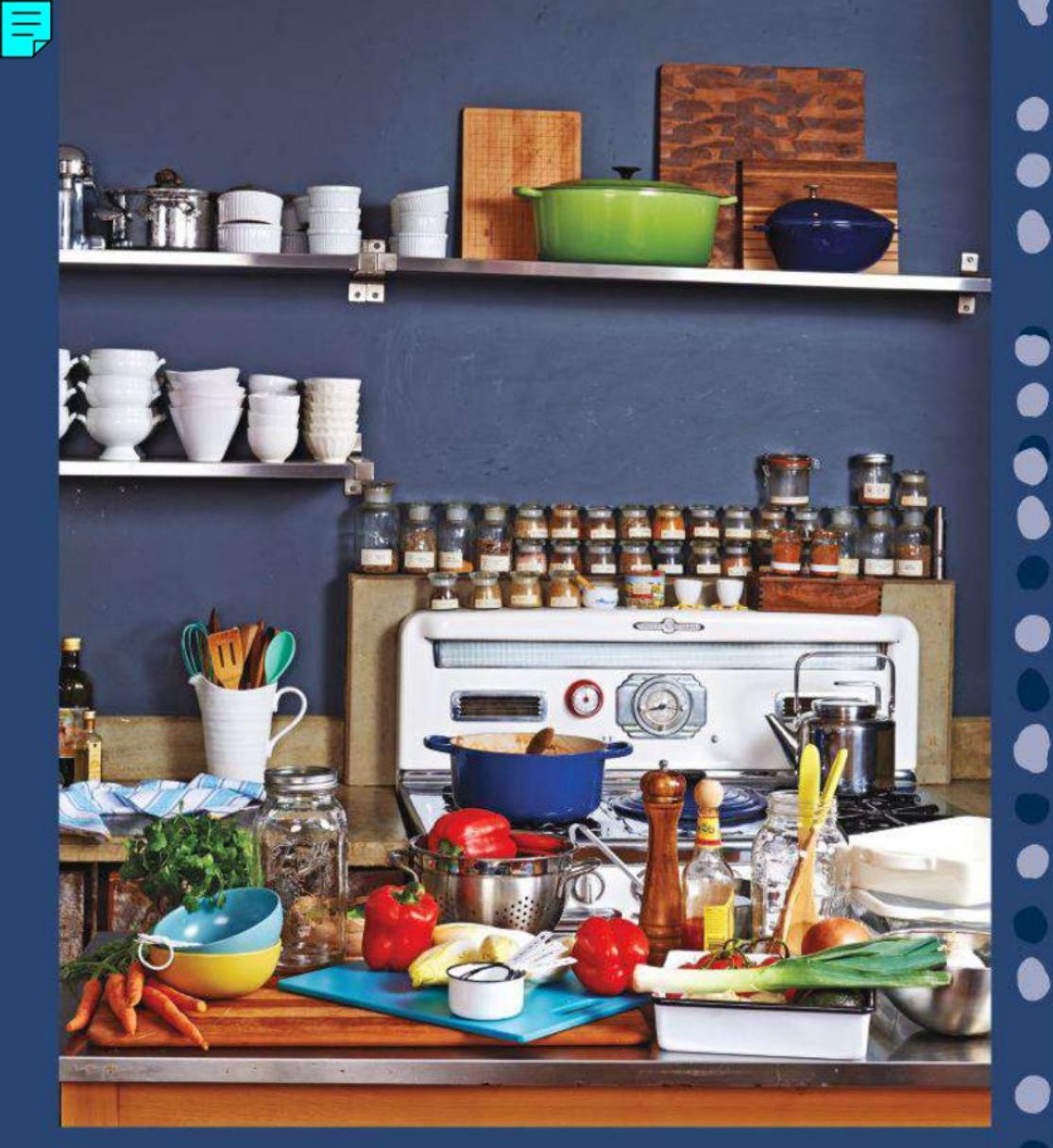
- 4 cups plain tortilla chips
- 2 small avocados, diced
- 2 tomatoes, diced
- green onions, chopped
- limes, sliced into wedges
- ½ cup chopped cilantro Hot sauce

1 To make Posole: Place pasilla chiles in large bowl, and cover with 3 cups boiling water. Let soak 15 minutes, or until softened. Drain chiles, and reserve liquid. Pull open chiles, and gently scrape out and discard seeds. Purée chiles in food processor with ¼ cup reserved soaking

liquid. (Press purée through sieve if bits of skin remain, and discard solids.) Stir chile purée into remaining soaking liquid.

- 2 | Halve leek chunks, and thinly slice into matchsticks.
- 3 | Heat oil in large stockpot over medium heat. Add leeks, and sauté 5 to 7 minutes, or until softened. Add garlic, cumin, and oregano, and sauté 1 minute. Add hominy, black beans, tomatoes with juice, chile liquid, and 6 cups water; cover, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer 20 minutes.
- 4 Place Garnishes (if using) in bowls; pass around table when ready to serve. PER 1½-CUP SERVING (WITHOUT GARNISHES)

176 cal; 6 g prot; 5 g total fat (<1 g sat fat); 32 g carb; 0 mg chol; 588 mg sod; 8 g fiber; 5 g sugars 🖤



TOOLS

WHAT YOU'LL **NEED FOR** THESE RECIPES:

- → 1 large stockpot or soup pot
- ◆ 1 large and 1 medium saucepan
- ◆ At least 1 complete set of measuring cups and spoons
- 2 cutting boards
- 1 food processor
- 2 chef's knives and 2 paring knives
- >> 2 shallow bowls
- 2 9-inch square baking dishes
- 2 large baking dishes
- >> 2 2-qt. storage containers for **Black Bean and Chile Posole**
- → 2 medium rectangular storage containers for Crispy Tofu Fingers
- Aluminum foil for Samosa **Stuffed Peppers**
- ◆ Wax paper or parchment paper for **Crispy Tofu Fingers**

two to get ready

WANT TO PLAN YOUR OWN BUDDY SYSTEM COOKING SESSION? HERE'S HOW:

CHOOSE four or five easy dishes that keep well. Vary selections so you're not making all stews or all casseroles.

SHOP Create a master grocery list, then decide who shops for what (and who's picking up coffee). Save receipts so you can divide costs equally.

GEAR UP Aim to have two each of the basic tools: cutting boards, chef's knives, paring knives, skillets, storage containers, etc. Check recipes for special equipment you'll need, such as a food processor, a stockpot, or a specific-size baking dish.

WORK SMART Break down the major steps of your recipes, following the format in "Divide and Conquer" (p. 68). Use the long cooking times in one recipe to prep ingredients for another. Consolidate steps for recipes, such as boiling water for both the Endive Gratin and the Black Bean and Chile Posole. Optimize oven time (and save energy) by having foods ready to bake one after the other.



Endive Gratin

SERVES 8 (MAKES 2 GRATINS)

This cheesy casserole is a family favorite in France. Serve with slices of baguette or another crusty bread and a green salad.

- 8 large heads Belgian endive, trimmed and halved lengthwise
- 6 Tbs. butter or margarine
- ⅓ cup all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups low-fat milk
- 1½ cups no-chicken broth, such as Imagine
- 1¼ cups grated Gruyère or Swiss cheese, divided
- 1/8 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 8 slices meatless ham, such as Yves Veggie Cuisine, halved

- a hail. Add andisa halvas, and hail 15 minutes. Duain
- 1 Bring large stockpot of salted water to a boil. Add endive halves, and boil 15 minutes. Drain, then set on paper-towel-lined baking sheet to cool and continue draining.
- 2 Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat two 9-inch square baking dishes with cooking spray.
- 3 Melt butter in medium saucepan over medium heat. Whisk in flour, and cook 1 minute, whisking constantly. Whisk in milk and broth, and cook over medium heat 3 to 5 minutes, or until sauce is thickened, whisking constantly. Stir in ¼ cup grated cheese and nutmeg, and season with salt and pepper, if desired.
- **4** Wrap each endive half in 1 halved meatless ham slice, and place in prepared baking dishes. Pour sauce over wrapped endives in both dishes, spreading sauce over endives to coat evenly. Sprinkle each dish with ½ cup grated cheese.
- 5 Bake gratins 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until bubbly and deep golden brown on top. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

PER SERVING (2 ENDIVE HALVES) 279 cal; 22 g prot; 15 g total fat (9 g sat fat); 16 g carb; 44 mg chol; 757 mg sod; 3 g fiber; 5 g sugars

STORE/SERVE

Allow fully cooked casseroles to cool, then wrap tightly in foil, and refrigerate up to two days or freeze up to three months. To reheat, bake, uncovered, 15 minutes at 350°F.

TO TRIM THE ENDIVES,



gently scrape off any brown from the outer leaves with a knife, then make a coneshaped cut at the base to remove the core.





grocery list

BRING THIS LIST FOR AN EASIER TIME AT THE STORE.

RECIPE	KEY INGREDIENTS	ITEMS YOU MAY HAVE ON HAND
Black Bean and Chile Posole	 → 2 4- to 5-inch dried pasilla chiles → 2 medium leeks → 2 15-oz. cans white hominy → GARNISHES (OPTIONAL): 4 cups tortilla chips; 2 small avocados; 2 tomatoes; 4 green onions; 2 limes; ½ cup chopped cilantro 	 Olive oil Fresh garlic cloves Ground cumin Dried oregano Hot sauce (optional) 2 15-oz. cans black beans 115-oz. can fire-roasted diced tomatoes
Endive Gratin	 No large heads Belgian endive 1½ cups no-chicken broth, such as Imagine 1¼ cups grated Gruyere or Swiss cheese (6 to 8 oz.) No lices meatless ham, such as Yves Veggie Cuisine 	 Dutter or margarine All-purpose flour Low-fat milk Ground nutmeg
Samosa Stuffed Peppers	 → 4 large red bell peppers → ½- to 1-inch piece fresh ginger (for 2 tsp. grated) → 1 cup basmati rice → ¼ cup red lentils → 2 large carrots → 1 cup green beans → ½ cup peanuts or cashews 	 Vegetable oil 1 large onion Curry powder Garam masala 115-oz. can chickpeas Raisins or dried currants (optional)
Crispy Tofu Fingers	→ 2 16-oz. blocks firm or extra-firm tofu → ½ cup flaxseed meal (optional)	 Cornstarch Unsweetened soymilk or rice milk Panko breadcrumbs All-purpose flour Paprika Dried sage Garlic powder Dried ginger

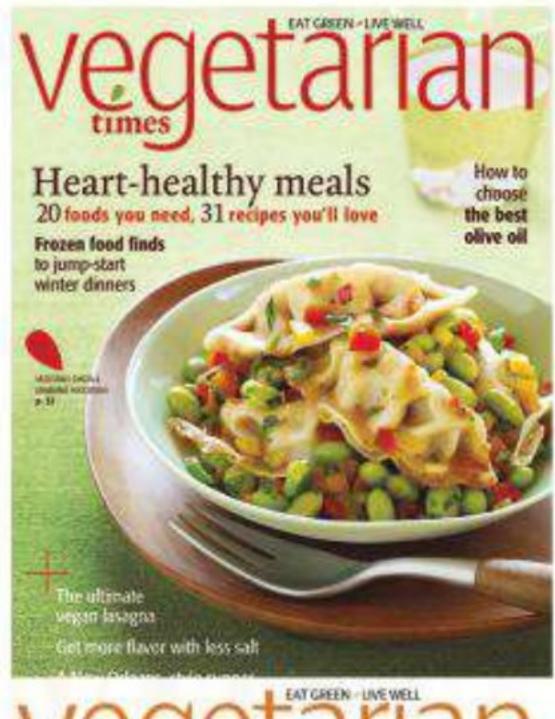
Onion powder

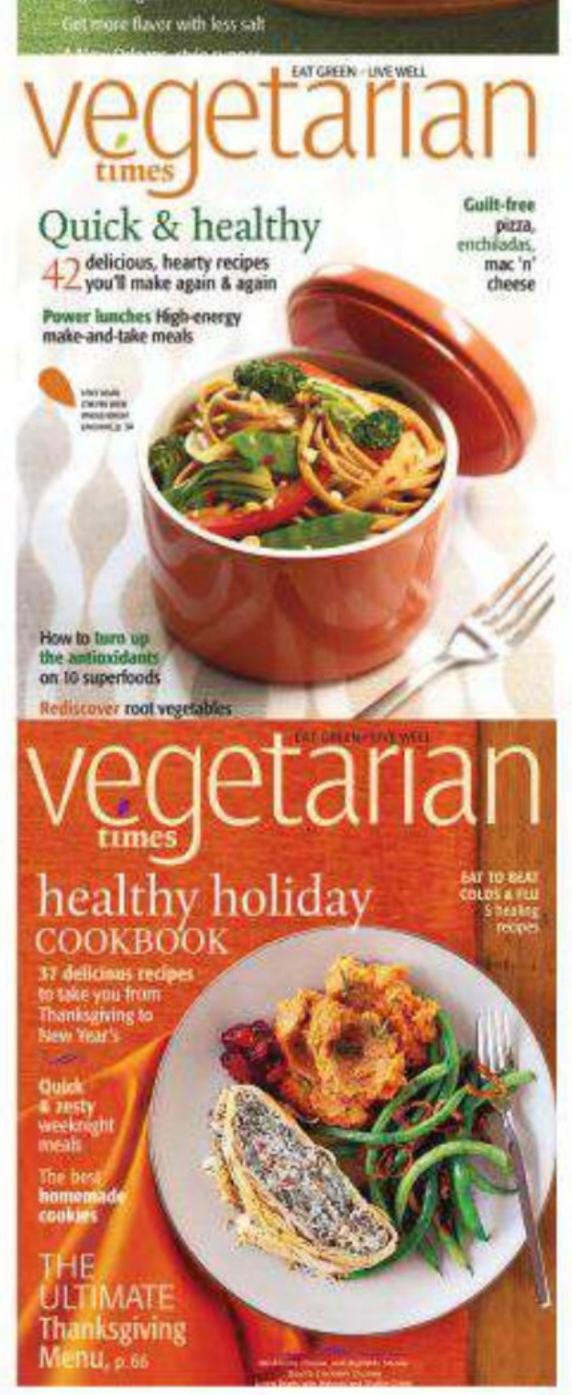
Samosa Stuffed Peppers

SERVES 8

The filling for these stuffed peppers tastes a lot like samosas, small Indian turnovers.

- 4 large red bell peppers, halved
- 2 Tbs. vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, chopped (2 cups)
- 4 tsp. curry powder
- 1 Tbs. garam masala
- 2 tsp. grated fresh ginger
- 1 cup basmati rice
- ½ cup red lentils, rinsed and drained
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1½ cups cooked chickpeas or 115-oz. can chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- 2 large carrots, finely diced (1 cup)
- 1 cup green beans, coarsely chopped
- ½ cup raisins or dried currants, optional
- ½ cup unsalted peanuts or cashews, coarsely chopped
- 1 Preheat oven to 350°F. Place halved bell peppers cut side down in two large baking dishes. Cover with foil, and bake 25 minutes, or until peppers begin to soften.
- 2 Heat oil in large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, and sauté 3 to 5 minutes. Add curry powder, garam masala, and ginger, and cook 1 minute. Stir in rice, lentils, salt, and 4 cups water. Add chickpeas, carrots, green beans, and raisins (if using). Cover, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer 15 minutes, or until most of liquid is absorbed, stirring once or twice. Remove rice mixture from heat, stir in peanuts, and season with salt, if desired.
- 3 | Flip bell pepper halves. Fill each with 3/4 cup rice mixture. Re-cover baking dishes, and bake 15 minutes. Uncover, and bake 5 to 10 minutes more.





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Crispy Tofu Fingers

SERVES 8

Talk about versatile! Once these tofu fingers have been baked, they can be refrigerated or frozen for future use, then reheated in an oven or even a toaster oven. Enjoy them finger-food-style with dipping sauces, load them into a bun with your favorite sandwich fixings, or serve over a bed of lightly dressed salad greens.

- 2 16-oz. blocks firm or extra-firm tofu, drained
- ½ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup flaxseed meal, optional
- 1 cup unsweetened soymilk or rice milk
- 2 cups panko breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp. paprika
- ½ tsp. dried sage
- ½ tsp. garlic powder or granulated garlic
- 1/4 tsp. dried ginger
- 1/4 tsp. onion powder
- ½ tsp. ground black pepper

- 1 If using firm tofu, wrap block in a soft, clean dish towel, and press between two heavy cutting boards 30 minutes to squeeze out excess moisture (unnecessary if using extra-firm tofu). Cut each tofu block into 16 fingers.
- 2 | Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat two baking sheets with cooking spray.
- 3 Place cornstarch and flaxseed meal (if using) in shallow bowl, and gradually stir in soymilk. Set aside.
- 4 Combine panko and all remaining ingredients in second shallow bowl.
- 5 Dip tofu fingers first in soymilk mixture, then in panko mixture, coating all sides. Place on prepared baking sheets.
- 6 Bake tofu fingers 20 to 25 minutes, or until light golden brown, turning once. If eating right away, bake 5 to 10 minutes more, or until deep golden brown.

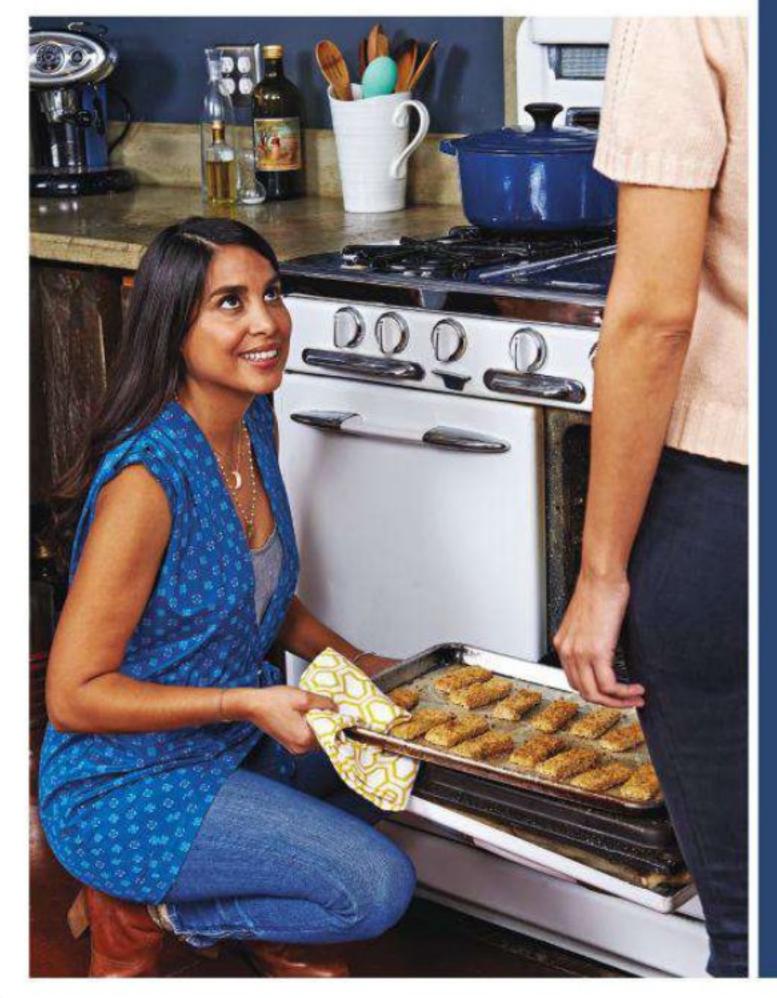
PER SERVING (4 PIECES) 239 cal; 15 g prot; 7 g total fat (<1 g sat fat); 29 g carb; 0 mg chol; 48 mg sod; 2 g fiber; 1 g sugars

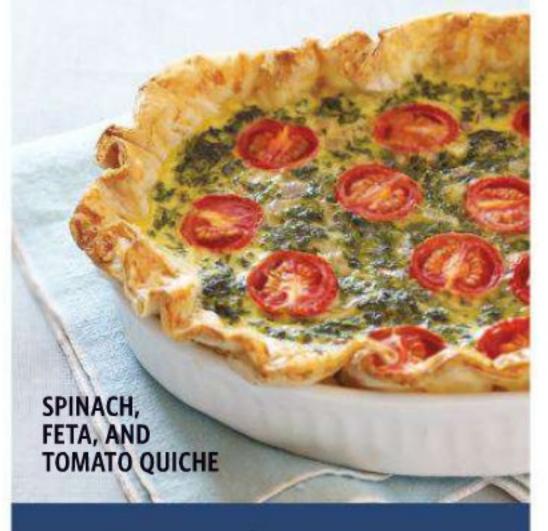


Allow Crispy Tofu Fingers to cool, then transfer to rectangular resealable containers, placing wax paper or parchment between layers to prevent sticking. Refrigerate up to two days or freeze up to three months.

To reheat, bake 5 to 7 minutes at 350°F.







3

(MORE) MAKE-AHEAD COMBOS

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1

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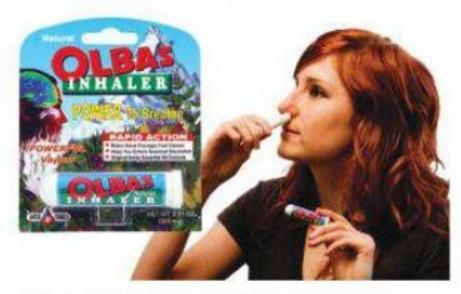
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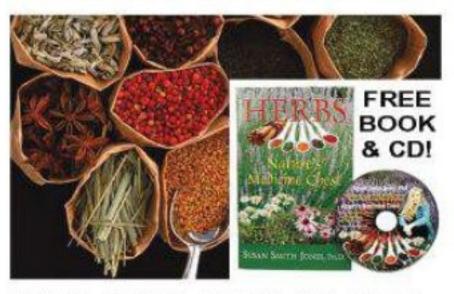
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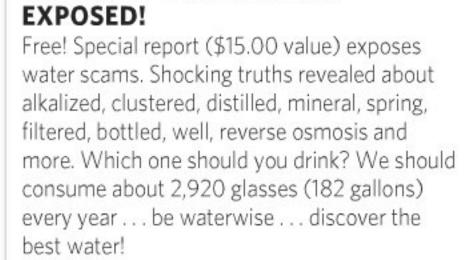
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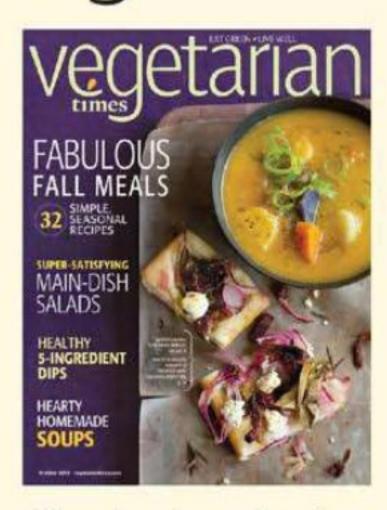
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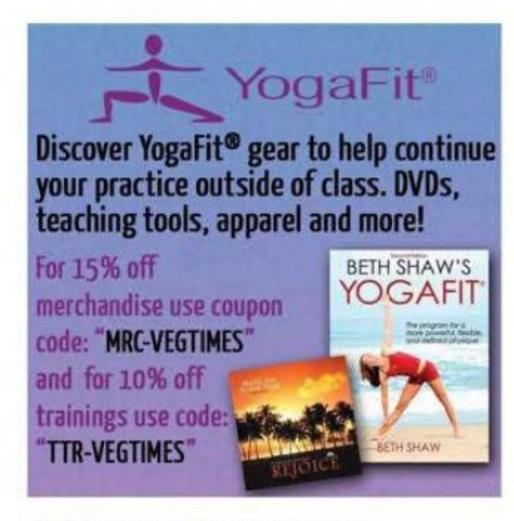
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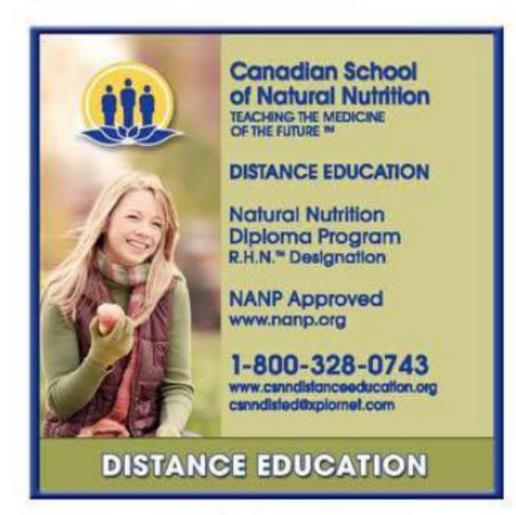
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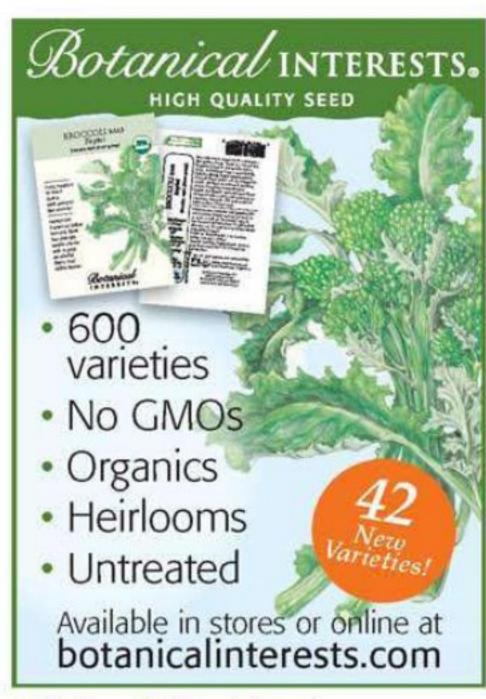


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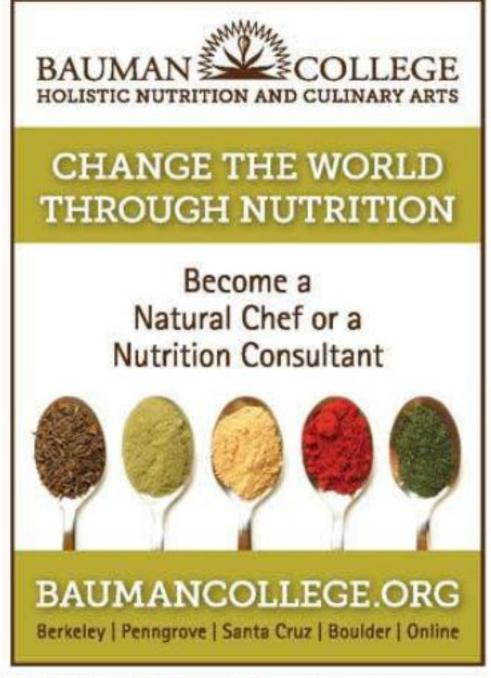


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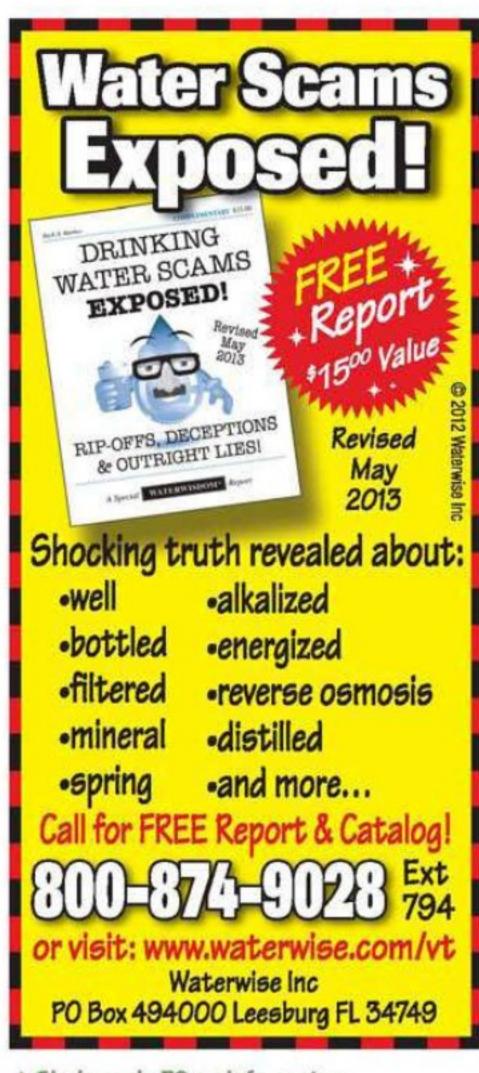
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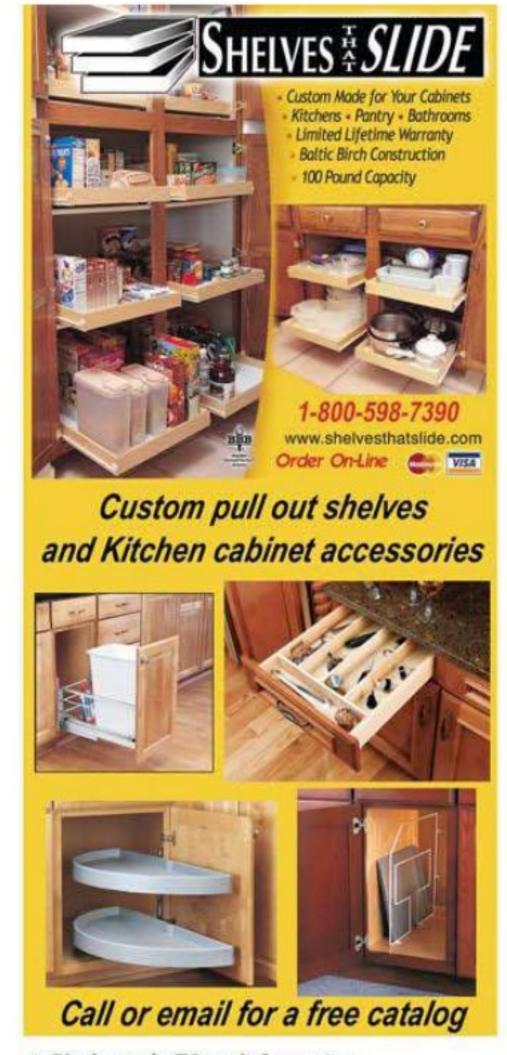
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GLUTEN-FREE REDO Continued from p. 34

Barbecue Bella

Spread 1¼ cups thick gluten-free barbecue sauce over par-baked crust. Top with 1½ cups shredded Cheddar cheese and 3/4 cup sliced baby bella mushrooms; drizzle with 2 Tbs. olive oil. Bake until cheese is bubbly.

PER SLICE 320 cal; 6 g prot; 13 g total fat (4 g sat fat); 45 g carb; 15 mg chol; 407 mg sod; 2 g fiber; 10 g sugars @

Hawaiian

Spread 1¼ cups pizza sauce over par-baked crust. Top with 1½ cups shredded mozzarella, ½ cup diced fresh pineapple, 1 crumbled cooked veggieburger patty (such as Amy's Bistro Burger), and 2 tsp. red pepper flakes. Bake until cheese is bubbly.

PER SLICE 269 cal; 6 g prot; 10 g total fat (3 g sat fat); 39 g carb; 11 mg chol; 226 mg sod; 3 g fiber; 3 g sugars @



Tuscan

Spread 1 cup prepared vegan pesto over par-baked crust. Top with 3/4 cup caramelized onions, ½ cup thinly sliced dried figs, 3 Tbs. pine nuts, and 1 Tbs. olive oil. Bake until toppings are hot. PER SLICE 326 cal; 4 g prot; 17 g total fat (2 g sat fat); 41 g carb; 0 mg chol; 397 mg sod; 3 g fiber; 4 g sugars 🖤 🌀



Pico de Gallo

Spread 2 cups fresh tomato salsa (from the refrigerated section) over par-baked crust. Top with 1¼ cups queso blanco and 1 cup (thawed) frozen fire-roasted corn. Bake until toppings are hot and cheese begins to brown, then garnish with 1 sliced avocado and 1 cup chopped watercress or lettuce.

PER SLICE 288 cal; 6 g prot; 12 g total fat (3 g sat fat); 41 g carb; 9 mg chol; 239 mg sod; 4 g fiber; 2 g sugars @







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MAKE-AHEAD TIP A par-baked pizza crust will keep for up to two days in the fridge and up to three months in the freezer.



Three-Herb Cherry Tomato

Spread 1¼ cups marinara sauce over par-baked crust. Top with 8 oz. sliced fresh mozzarella and 1½ cups halved cherry tomatoes. Bake until cheese is bubbly; top with ¼ cup each fresh parsley, torn basil, and chopped chives. PER SLICE 271 cal; 6 g prot; 11 g total fat (4 g sat fat); 38 g carb; 16 mg chol; 130 mg sod; 3 g fiber; 3 g sugars



Swiss Miss

Spread 1 cup prepared butternut squash soup over par-baked crust. Top with 1½ cups grated Swiss cheese, 1 cup

thinly sliced fennel, 1 cup thinly sliced radicchio, and ¼ cup sliced black olives. Bake until cheese is bubbly.

PER SLICE 269 cal; 6 g prot; 11 g total fat (3 g sat fat); 39 g carb; 12 mg chol; 84 mg sod; 2 g fiber; 2 g sugars



Baked Potato

Brush 2 Tbs. olive oil over par-baked crust. Top with 1 tsp. minced garlic, 1 cup thinly sliced baked potato, and ½ cup raw broccoli florets.

Drizzle with 1 Tbs. olive oil, and add ¾ cup shredded Cheddar cheese and ⅓ cup sour cream (in dollops). Bake until cheese is

bubbly, then sprinkle with ¼ cup chopped chives.

PER SLICE 279 cal; 4 g prot; 13 g total fat (3 g sat fat); 38 g carb; 9 mg chol; 47 mg sod; 2 g fiber; <1 g sugars

10

Garlic Knot

Blend ½ cup olive oil, ½ cup parsley leaves, and 4 cloves garlic in blender; brush mixture over par-baked crust. Top with ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese, and season generously with salt and pepper. Bake until toppings are hot.

PER SLICE 270 cal; 4 g prot; 13 g total fat (2 g sat fat); 36 g carb; 3 mg chol; 79 mg sod; 2 g fiber; <1 g sugars

Allyson Kramer is a cookbook author specializing in allergy-friendly cuisine. She is obsessed with re-creating more healthful versions of classic comfort foods.

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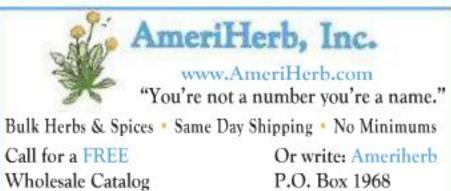
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