

# Food



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## Washington Post's top 10 cookbooks of 2011

By Bonnie S. Benwick, December 13, 2011



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Dishes mentioned can be found online at [washingtonpost.com/recipes](http://washingtonpost.com/recipes).

1 "Essential Pepin: More Than 700 All-Time Favorites From My Life in Food," by Jacques Pepin (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$40). Who better than the master himself to update a life's worth of recipes? A technique DVD is included. Recipes to try: Banana Tart With Guava Glaze, Haddock in Rice Paper With Shallot and Soy Sauce, Onion Puree.

2 "All About Roasting: A New Approach to a Classic Art," by Molly Stevens (W.W. Norton, \$35). A comprehensive and worthy successor to the author's 2004 award-winning cookbook,

"All About Braising." Recipe to try: Slow-Roasted Duck Breast.

3 "Plenty: Vibrant Recipes from London's Ottolenghi," by Yotam Ottolenghi (Chronicle, \$35). The Israeli-born chef elevates the level of vegetarian recipes in this, his second book. Recipe to try: Green Pancakes With Lime Butter.

4 "Jekka's Herb Cookbook," by Jekka McVicar (Firefly, \$29.95). Called England's "Queen of Herbs" by superstar chef Jamie Oliver, the author lays out the history and utility of her 50 top garden herbs.

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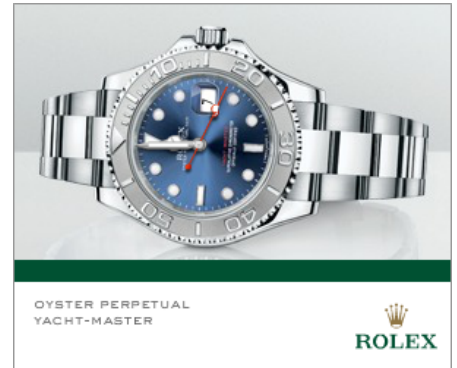
5 "American Flavor," by Andrew Carmellini and Gwen Hyman (Ecco, \$34.99). Carmellini, the New York chef-restaurateur of Locande Verde and the Dutch, writes recipes that are easy to follow. This collection is thoughtful and diverse. Recipes to try: Red Chicken; Endive, Apple and Farmhouse Cheddar Salad With Country Ham and Wheat Beer Dressing.

6 "The Homesick Texan Cookbook," by Lisa Fain (Hyperion, \$29.99). Sprung from the popular blog of the same name, this book channels the right attitude and an impressive number of recipes that you. Must. Try.

7 "Ancient Grains for Modern Meals:

Mediterranean Whole Grain Recipes for Barley, Farro, Kamut, Polenta, Wheat Berries, & More," by Maria Speck (Ten Speed Press, \$29.99). The author fits healthful ingredients into the foods we crave without, as she writes, "taking the pleasure away from eating."

8 "The Food of Morocco," by Paula Wolfert (Ecco, \$45). Beautifully presented, offering a real sense of place. Not to be missed are the author's 10 tips for preparing Moroccan food. Recipe to try: Lamb, Tomato Cinnamon and Steamed Pasta Chorba.



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9 "Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams at Home," by Jeni Britton Bauer (Artisan, \$23.95). With this book, the founder of Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams in Columbus, Ohio, satisfies a nationwide craving for her inspired flavors of yogurts and sorbets as well as her ice creams with a touch of cream cheese.

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10 "The Food52 Cookbook: 140 Winning Recipes From Exceptional Home Cooks," by Amanda Hesser and Merrill Stubbs (William Morrow, \$35). It's a testament to crowd-sourcing, to accomplished cooks who don't necessarily blog, and to Food52.com's smart curating.

Recipes:

Red Chicken

Endive, Apple and Farmhouse Cheddar Salad With Country Ham and Wheat Beer Dressing

Lamb, Tomato, Cinnamon and Steamed Pasta Chorba

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