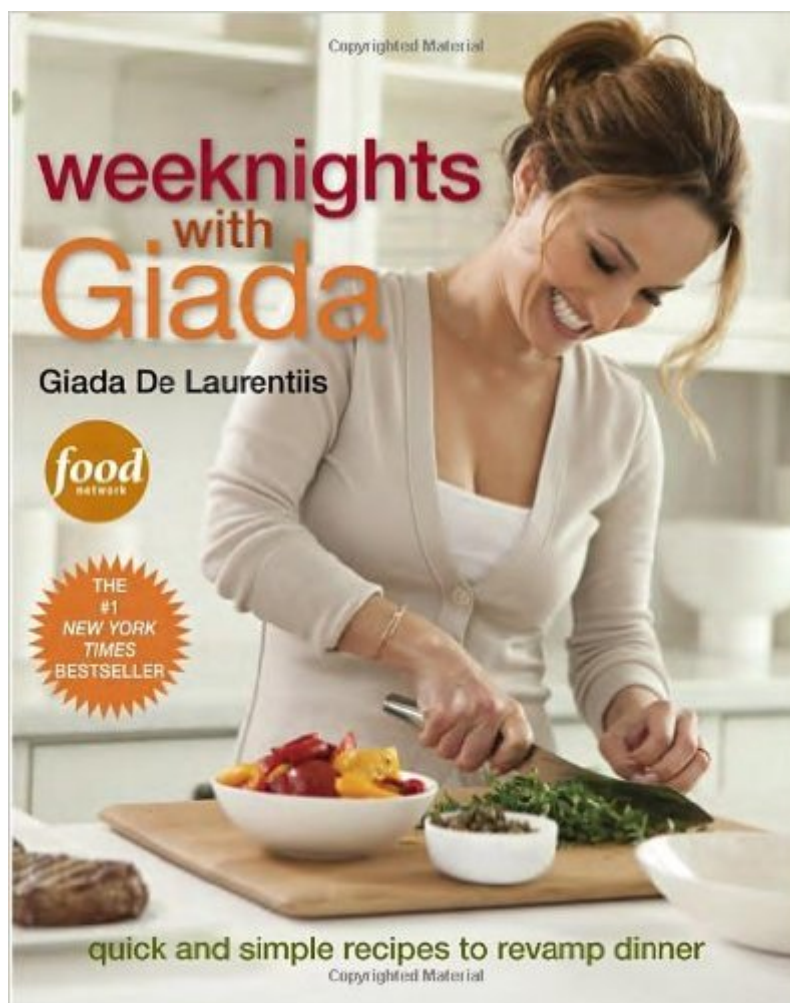


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Weeknights With Giada: Quick And Simple Recipes To Revamp Dinner



Synopsis

Giada De Laurentiis is one of America's most-loved culinary stars, adored for her Food Network hit shows and her New York Times bestselling cookbooks alike, both of which feature her fresh, flavorful Italian recipes. For the first time, Giada tackles weeknight cooking, sharing her favorite tips and go-to dishes "all in her vibrant signature style" to get a delicious meal on the table in a flash. After a full day, Giada, like most parents, wants nothing more than to sit down for a home-cooked dinner with her husband, Todd, and their daughter, Jade. *Weeknights with Giada* rises to the challenge, delivering soups, sandwiches, pizzas, pastas, and meat and fish dishes that come together quickly as stand-alone main courses "most in half an hour or less: Rustic Vegetable and Polenta Soup, a hearty soul-warming one-pot dish, cooks in under twenty minutes; Lemony White Bean, Tuna, and Arugula Salad is a great meal that's quickly assembled from pantry and fridge essentials; Spicy Linguini with Clams and Mussels is a fifteen-minute-or-less spectacular pasta; and you can't beat Grilled Sirloin Steaks with Pepper and Caper Salsa, which are also ready in just fifteen minutes. From inventive breakfast-for-dinner dishes and meatless Monday vegetarian recipes "both weekly traditions in Giada's house" to picnic sandwiches and hearty salad recipes for reinventing leftovers, *Weeknights with Giada* reveals every secret in her repertoire. Even the desserts are quick to mix and bake, should a craving "or a last-minute school bake sale" strike. Here is Giada at her most inventive "and at her most laid-back. Flavor, freshness, and fun take center stage while cooking times, pots dirtied, and stress are kept to a minimum. With gorgeous color photographs and intimate home snapshots of Giada and her family, *Weeknights with Giada* is a welcome handbook of fantastic recipes and surefire Monday-to-Friday strategies for every home cook.

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Customer Reviews

I have been a fan of Giada De Laurentiis for a long time. By now, I've integrated several of her recipes into my cooking repertoire and have even taken the liberty to tweak a few of the recipes to my own liking. I've always been drawn to Giada's warm personality on camera and her accessible approach to Italian cooking. Not only is Giada's food easy enough to make, but it tastes excellent -and is certainly a favorite of my very Italian boyfriend. When I saw the title of Giada's newest cookbook, I got excited. It seemed that as she moved forward in her career, Giada's cooking had become more complex and not as accessible to the everyday person to work with a busy schedule. In fact, with Giada's more recent move to food that's designed to entertain, I've found that there are fewer and fewer of her new recipes that I can tackle -mostly due to complexity and time constraints. I was hoping that Weeknights with Giada would go back to her roots more and offer dishes that could fit around my job and life. I was a little disappointed. A handful of the recipes here do fall into that category of "weeknight dinners," but most really don't: at least they don't fit my definition of weeknight meals. Most recipes here take the more complex entertainment approach. The result certainly seems tasty, but doesn't work as recipes for a working woman trying to put good food on the table Monday through Friday. Really, if the title had just been different, my disappointment wouldn't be so high. Weeknights offers a handful of different categories: soups and salads, bruschettas, sandwiches and pizzas, pastas and grains; meat, poultry and fish; something called "change of pace," breakfast for dinner, veggies and sides, and desserts.

I own all of Giada's cookbooks and was thrilled to preorder this one through . However, I feel that this cookbook is the weakest book in Giada's line. The title, of course, is Weeknights with Giada: Quick and Simple Recipes to Revamp Dinner. Many of the recipes are quick and simple, but a disproportionately large number just involve too much prep work and dirtying too many kitchen appliances, pans, and implements for me to feel good about attempting the recipes on a weeknight when I have worked all day, picked my toddler up from childcare, and have to get something on the table quickly. However, I understand that these are her recipes for a typical day in her life. I just fail to see how these recipes are much simpler than any other she has published before. There are many other cookbooks out there that deliver on weeknight recipes made from wholesome

ingredients with efficiency in preparation/cleanup. Sections include: soups and salads; bruschetta, sandwiches, and pizzas; pasta and grains; meat, poultry, and fish; change of pace; breakfast for dinner; veggies and sides; and desserts. I was disappointed by the "Change of Pace" section which, as promised, is a departure from her light Italian fare. These recipes seem to be a variety of Asian, Spanish, and South American recipes. I do realize that the title of the book said nothing about it being an Italian cookbook, but I was still a little thrown by the inclusion of these recipes. Many of them just don't interest me. I also found a few of the ingredients a little hard to locate. For example, the three grocery stores in town and the three major Asian markets do not carry black forbidden rice.

Weeknights with Giada: Quick and Simple Recipes to Revamp Dinner is a collection of mostly simple dinners that the chef makes for her own family, husband and four year old daughter and occasional extended family and friends. With her busy schedule, Giada likes to keep weeknight meals simple. Her four year old has been eating what they eat for the past year, so this book contains recipes that she adapted for all of them to share at mealtimes. A beautiful book with lots of photos that show off the food and Giada and her friends and family. (Yes, they are so photogenic.) The book is divided as follows: Soups and salads Bruschettas Sandwiches and pizzas Pasta and grains Meat, poultry and fish Change of pace Breakfast for dinner Veggies and sides Desserts Many recipes are healthy and look very good, as Giada incorporates more whole grains and pastas into her recipes. The family eats meatless on Mondays for health. That said, my chief complaint is how much meat is used in most recipes. For example, there is a full pound of bacon in the cauliflower soup. (It sounds delicious, however, and I will make it with about 1/3 of a pound.) Giada explains to the reader how to save time cooking. As a former caterer/chef, I think she gives some good advice. For example, when using a food processor, if you need to process several items, do them in the order that you don't have to clean machine between ingredients. Great advice--I often think twice about using my processor because clean up is so time consuming. Some time saving tips are silly; pre-cooked brown rice, for instance. Yes, brown rice takes about 50 minutes to make, but it is chiefly unattended.

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