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Golden Door Cooks At Home: Favorite Recipes From The Celebrated Spa



Synopsis

Tucked away in the rolling hills and hidden valleys of idyllic southern California, the Golden Door is the epitome of the luxury spa experience. As the quintessential holistic retreat, the spa is equally renowned for its inspired, bold, and innovative cuisine. In celebration of fifty sensational years, the Golden Door shares the secrets of its celebrated kitchen, bringing its famously fresh and healthful cuisine into your home. With a focus on lean proteins, whole grains, fresh vegetables, and other wholesome foods combined in astoundingly delicious ways, *Golden Door Cooks at Home* shares Chef Dean Rucker's most sought-after recipes, including: Spiny Lobster and Mango Gazpacho Shooters, Soft Rosemary-Lemon Polenta with Sweet Corn, Oyster Mushrooms, and Rainbow Chard, Adobo-Marinaded Grass-Fed Flank Steak with Spinach Salad and Roasted Poblano Dressing, Grilled Lamb Chops with Rosemary Roasted New Potatoes and Apple-Mint Salad, and Blackberry Nectarine Crisp. Also featured are cooking tips from Chef Rucker's popular cooking classes, information about how to boost flavor healthfully, recipes for easy-to-make sauces and vinaigrettes, and sidebars on fitness, nutrition, and other aspects of the unique Golden Door experience. Whether you've been a guest in the past or have only dreamed of getting a taste of the Golden Door, you'll enjoy this culinary tribute to one of the world's most restorative and nurturing destinations.

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Customer Reviews

This is an excellent cookbook for anyone who is interested in creating an elegant, healthy menu or

lifestyle. Dean's recipes are clearly explained and filled with wholesome, fresh ingredients. There are simple recipes (like preparing perfect vegetables) and more complicated ones, including healthful vegetarian, vegan, fish, seafood and meat selections. Because more and more people would prefer to be served foods that are both tasty and good for them, I have used this cookbook to prepare both lunch and dinner menus. Each time, my guests (both men and women) were delighted by the flavors and really pleased to learn that they could have a second helping without worry (especially the men!) The crab cakes on roasted pineapple with sauce remoulade is a huge success - filling, refined, and luxurious - you would never know that the sauce is made with silky tofu. Wow, so guilt free! If you have hungry guests, it's easy to add a soup or pasta course and still keep the menu very healthy. This book is also helpfully organized. A number of recipe selections include information for an entire course, and complete nutritional information on each one can be found in a table in the back of the book, so menu choices can be thoughtful and informed. Another reason I like Golden Door Cooks at Home so much is that it is an inspirational guide into the Golden Door lifestyle, a window into the original Golden Door Spa founded 50 years ago by visionary Deborah Szekely. There are articles and images that motivate, inspire and, for those who have visited the Spa, invoke cherished, happy memories. I enjoy giving it as a gift as a way of sharing my wonderful experiences as a guest at the Golden Door.

I am usually disappointed by spa cookbooks which are often more trendy than practical. This one is a notable exception. The recipes and menus are well planned to include a wondrous variety of fresh foods and whole grains. The few recipes that include unusual or pricey ingredients provide alternatives; e.g., olive for truffle oil. There are detailed nutritional values of each dish provided at the end of the cookbook. While portion sizes are relatively small, the ingredients impress as appetizing and adequately filling so as to be suitable for day-to-day meals. They are also special enough to impress company. There are various tips on healthful eating and cooking interspersed with the recipes. The chapters are arranged from appetizer to dessert. Almost all of the dishes are beautifully photographed as full-page illustrations. This large format, coffee-table styled book also includes pictures of the original Golden Door Spa in southern California. These photos and the descriptions which accompany them are sufficient to convey the atmosphere of the spa without dominating. The reader is not left with the impression that the purpose of the book is to advertise the spa. Chef Dean Rucker provides cooking classes for the Golden Door guests. As author, he carries forth this educational role as he describes the food preparation. Since the emphasis is upon using whole foods in a large variety, it would be fairly easy to vary the ingredients without significantly

altering the nutritional values. I was so impressed and inspired by this book that I read it through when it was first delivered! This could serve as a Christmas present for a health-oriented friend who would like to learn how to prepare gourmet food which is also fresh,nutritious, and varied.

This is a great cookbook based on farmers market and well sought ingredients that with a little care even a person not well versed in cooking can try and be inspired by. I am using some of the recipes in here to cater to a high - brow clientele here in Los Angeles. The chef and the restaurant seems to embody basic health principles and carry integrity of ingredients and dietary ethos.For example I agree with their statement "...For example I never use nonfat cheese because 1/2 ounce of real Parmesan is far tastier and more natural option than 1/2 cup of nonfat cheese that is full of stabilizers and additives and lacks flavor... The fact is that the distance between real food and these replacements is enormous."Many inspiring photos. A fine choice in ingredients of high quality, and straightforward recipes that are not overly sophisticated or on the other hand too plain. I love and highly recommend the roasted poblano, corn and potato soup (minus the dairy sour cream for my clients, instead I add a little bit of Amazake/Soy Milk) and the "flourless Chocolate/Yam brownies". Industrious vegetarians or those with a knack for fermented soy, may want to substitute tempeh instead of the crab in the Maryland Crab Cakes- and I'm sure with a little modification it would be taste awesome... The other vegetarian/vegan recipe that looks great (I haven't tried yet is the vegetable stir fry with caramelized tofu and forbidden rice, the whole wheat chapatis, and the salad recipes. The poultry and lean meats section looks is very "classy" if you are into preferably pasture raised foods.Finally for diabetics watching their insulin, those watching caloric intake and those monitoring their protein, fat, fiber, sodium and cholesterol intake (I don't really bother with such things) is shown at the end of the book.After writing this and having the book on my lap I am getting very hungry.Bon Appetit!

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