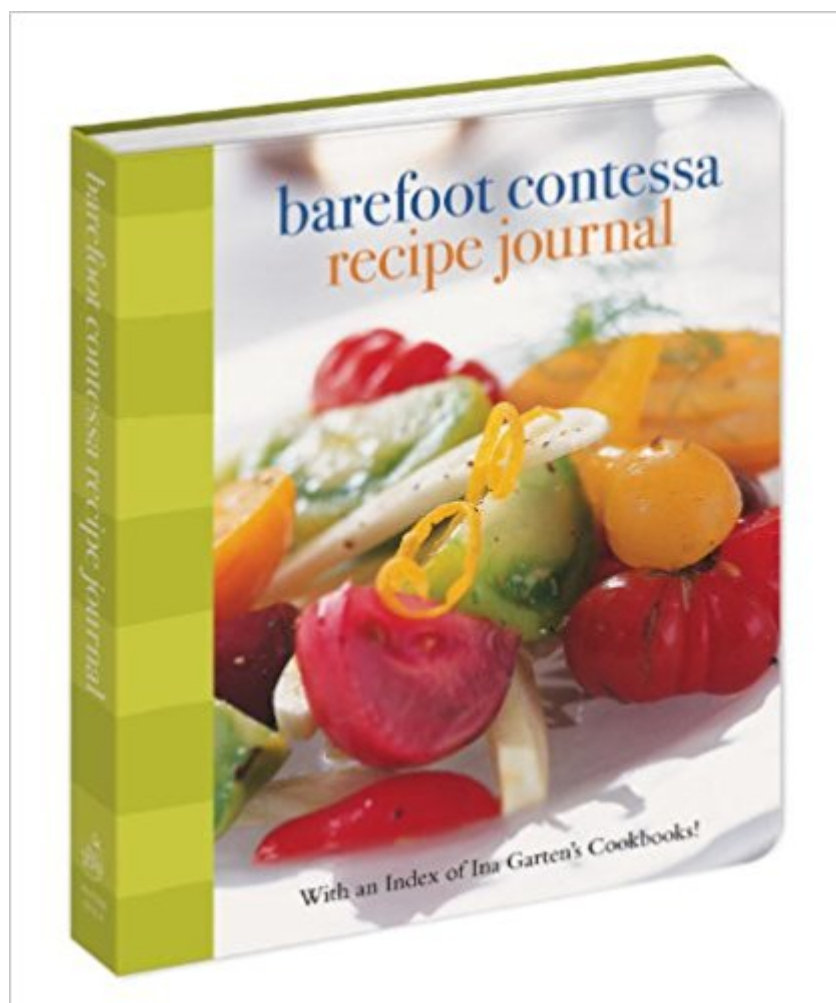


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Barefoot Contessa Recipe Journal: With An Index Of Ina Garten's Cookbooks



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Customer Reviews

I have all of Ina's books and often can't remember where a particular recipe came from. This journal has a handy index for just those times. The subsections are, in this order: cocktails, lunch, sandwiches, soups, salads, dinner, vegetables, sides, fruit desserts, cakes, cookies and bars, pies and tarts, other desserts, breakfast, breads, drinks, and kid food. I find the categories a bit random and not always obvious. For example, Mache with Warm Brie and Apples is listed under "lunch". The first place I'd look though would be "salads". Herbed-Baked Eggs and Scrambled Eggs with Truffles are also listed under "lunch". Yes, they'd make lovely lunches, but since there is a "breakfast" category, that's the first place I'd look for egg dishes. Also, the recipes are listed by name, not ingredient-so a quick look for eggs would not lead you to these dishes. I'd prefer the index be organized by food type or main ingredient. The books themselves are referenced by number, with a key on the bottom of each page, which is helpful. Probably done to save space-even using initials for the book titles would have been a strain on the index space. It's easy enough to shelve my books in order of publication. The journal is divided with tabs; to start, salads & soups, dinner, vegetables, desserts and breakfast. Each divider has a picture of the one recipe pertaining to that section that is included in the journal and an Ina quote on the other side, with a pocket for clippings and such. Each section has a generous number of lined pages for jotting down notes, lists and/or recipes. All in all, this is a great little companion volume to Ina's wonderful books. I gave it four stars because of my issues with the index.

I own and use all six of Ira Garten's cookbooks. I am often either looking for a particular recipe that I have used before or have a particular food item that I am searching for a good recipe. This book is useless for both searches. The index is organized in alphabetic order within groups like breakfast, deserts, vegetables, dinner, salads etc. So far, so good. Unfortunately, the recipes within groups are all in alphabetic order by whatever the first word in the recipe name happens to be. For example, to find chicken recipes, one needs to look under "I" for Indonesian Ginger Chicken or "L" for Lemon Chicken with Croutons, or "P" for Parmesan Chicken. This book is useless for one of its main purposes.

I am a huge Ina Garten fan. I have all her books and I use them constantly. Now granted, this is just a journal, not a cookbook. But I have long wished for an index for all of Ina's Books so I didn't have to run over to the Food Network's website to figure out which of Ina's 6 books held the recipe I wanted that day. So as far as I'm concerned, this little gem is worth the money just to have the index!

I love Ina's books. And I have all of them. Since this was supposed to include an index of all of her recipes to date, I expected it to save me time when locating recipes. Not so. The "index" contains arbitrary categories which, as noted in a previous review, one must second-guess. But most frustrating is the fact that one must know the exact name of a recipe in order to find it. For instance, if one is seeking her recipe for roasted chicken, then one must look in the dinner category under "P". For "Perfect". As in "Perfect Roasted Chicken". As an index, this does not cut it. Save your money.

I, too, am a huge fan of Ina Garten, her books, and her program. As to the index, though, I simply downloaded it from the Internet last year, folded it, and tucked it into the front of "Back to Basics." This enables me to find what I'm looking for quickly, get the correct book, and go. I already use a spiral notebook for recipes that I've tried and any alterations. The whole process at my house certainly costs less than the charge for this index with pockets.

A friend gave me this book because she knows I love Ina. Well.....it is out of date for the recipe index, and her up-to-date index is always available on her BAREFOOT CONTESSA BLOG. The recipe section is handy, but if you cook a lot and garner recipes, you need a 3 ring notebook that you can add to easily. This hardbound book just doesn't cut it for most everyday cooks.

Actually, I bought two--one for my house in SC and another for my apartment in NY. I cook almost exclusively from Ina's cookbooks and this definitely saves time. The journal is great for recording dinner party menus (and guests) and any substitutions or adjustments you've made to a recipe.

I bought this for a friend because she was always borrowing mine. I Love it. Great recipes, and well written. Ina has a way of simplifying recipes that could otherwise be complicated.

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