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Classic Home Desserts: A Treasury of Heirloom and Contemporary Recipes

By Richard Sax



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"More a story of the pleasures of real dessert-making than anything yet written."—M.F.K. Fisher

For this monumental collection, Richard Sax devoted more than a decade to searching out and perfecting more than 350 of the world's most beloved desserts, "the ones made at home by mothers and grandmothers rather than by professional pastry chefs." Every uncomplicated homespun classic is here: cobblers and crisps, cakes and cookies, puddings and soufflés, pies and pastries, ice creams and sauces—nineteen chapters in all.

Sax's versions are justifiably legendary among accomplished bakers: Traditional Two-Berry Buckle • Chocolate Cloud Cake • Bon Ton's New Orleans Bread Pudding with Whiskey Sauce • Reuben's Legendary Apple Pancake • Best-Ever Pumpkin Pie • Schrafft's Hot Fudge Sauce. Sidebars with every recipe—profiles of cooks, engaging recollections of favorite desserts, quotations from hundreds of literary works, and excerpts from old recipes—show how sweets are indelibly woven into the texture of our lives.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Food writer Richard Sax compiles a massive selection of over 300 classic dessert recipes. Cobblers, fools, creams, pastries and cakes of every variety, including cheesecakes, are described--delights to tempt the most replete of dinner guests at the end of a meal. The recipes are drawn from old cookbooks, family collections and Sax's own repertoire of classics, giving the book the feel of an old-fashioned heirloom handed down from some perfect past; Sax includes some fascinating culinary history. Thankfully, a few allowances are made for modern taste, including reduced fat and calorie content in many of the recipes. 1995 Winner of the Julia Child Cookbook Award in the Bread, Baking and Sweets Category.

From Publishers Weekly

More than a decade in the making, according to Sax (Old-Fashioned Desserts), this vast and user-friendly international compendium of desserts will seem congenial territory to the many home cooks whose culinary passion has always been that final course. Sax eschews such special-occasion masterpieces as wedding cakes and complicated pastries, to survey four broad types of desserts: warm fruit desserts and smooth, thickened dishes, like mousses and fools; custards and starch-thickened puddings; baked goods (about half the book), from cookies to cakes, pies and tarts; and frozen desserts and sauces. Beginning with thorough coverage of cookware and ingredients, including sources, tips on techniques and a table of equivalents, Sax plunges right into the fruit recipes. They, like all others, come with a bit of history, suggestions about variations and substitutions and sidebars of chatty quotes from noted chefs, excerpts from fiction and historical documents or reproductions of early recipes. Sax offers a highly usable collection sure to brighten the task of family cooks and bring smiles to those who sit at their tables. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Sax, a well-known food writer and cookbook author, has compiled an ambitious and impressive collection of homestyle desserts, from cobblers and crisps to creams and fools to layer cakes, fancy cakes, and cheesecakes. Many of the recipes come from old cookbooks, some centuries old, and from family collections handed down through generations, while others are Sax's own versions of classics. There are also recipes from pastry chefs who have revived these traditional desserts and from home cooks who have rediscovered them-or have been making them for decades. Most collections of good old-fashioned desserts are on a much smaller scale; with more than 300 recipes, an excellent introductory section, and lots of culinary history and background, Sax's nostalgic compendium is highly recommended. [HomeStyle Bks. main selection.] Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

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