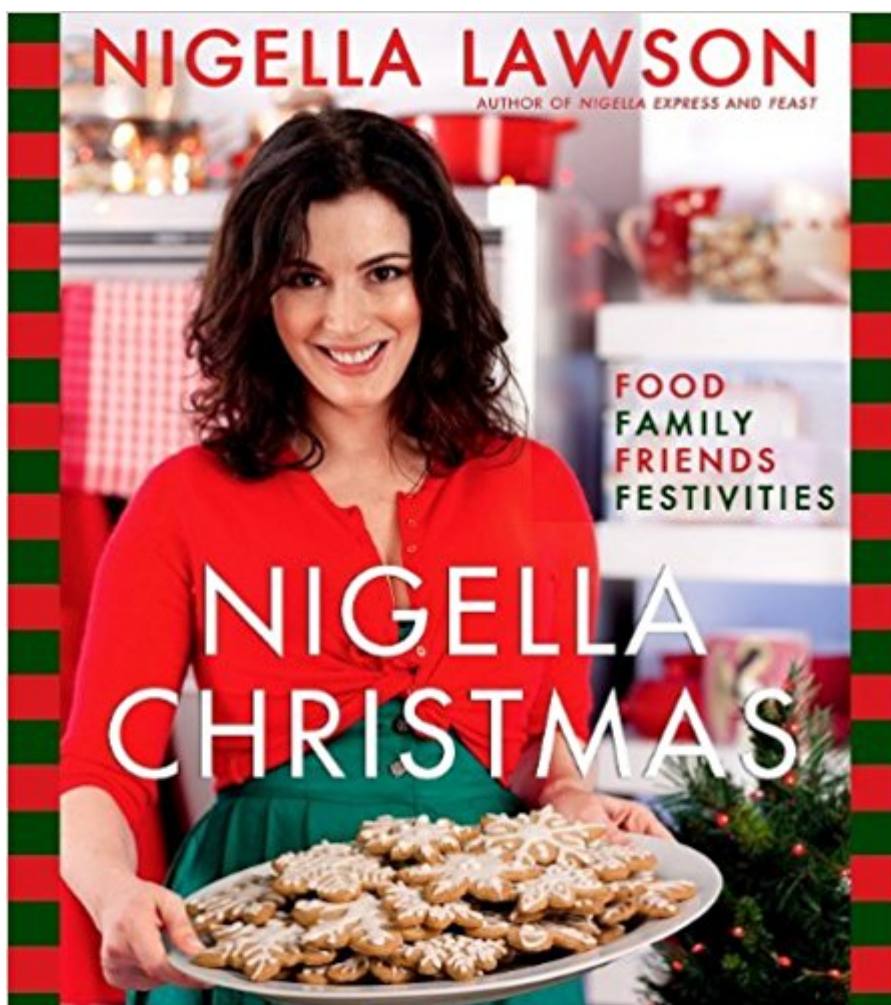




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Nigella Christmas: Food Family Friends Festivities



Synopsis

"Nigella covers just about all the quick bases in Express . . . this is a recipe collection that could get you through the holidays."--The Washington Post

The recipes are a mix of dishes that are quick to prepare and cook--so you can have your dinner out of the grocery bag and on to the table in half an hour or so--and dishes that are easy to prepare early in the day and then are simply left to simmer slowly."--Good Housekeeping

"Nigella Lawson has conjured up a voluptuous volume of what she called 'fast food for those who love eating.' . . . it's a Nigella-style feast . . . A perfect choice for cooks who would rather sip wine than labor over a hot stove, Nigella Express is, as the British say, brilliant."--People

A fast feast may seem like a concept at odds with itself, but the goddess of easy extravagance, Nigella Lawson, has figured out how to put together a lavish party menu in ultrashort order . . . That's what her latest cookbook, Nigella Express, is all about--time savers that don't compromise on flavor but are so effective you'll feel you got away with something."--O at Home

Christmas is a time for family and friends, for tradition and treats. But, let's face it, when the pressure to feed and entertain builds up, the festive season can start to lose its sparkle . . . That's where Nigella comes in. With her no-nonsense approach, her inspirational ideas, and her empathy for the practical realities of the season--combined here with reliable, easy-to-follow recipes and reassuring advice about planning and cooking ahead--Nigella Christmas is guaranteed to bring comfort and joy and make sure the season of good will stays that way. Here is everything you could wish for to make your life and your Christmas easy and enjoyable: from party canaps, cocktails, and manageable mass catering, to scrumptious Christmas cakes and puddings; from no-fuss brunches to quick-and-easy homemade presents (chutneys, preserves, and other delectable standbys) and edible tree decorations. There are mouth-watering recipes with a seasonal twist, and simple menus for feeding friends and family over the extended holiday season with minimum stress and maximum enjoyment. And, of course, exciting and inspiring variations for the Main Event itself--from her traditional super-juicy turkey with all the trimmings, to festive ginger-glazed ham and the Ultimate Christmas Pudding; from goose, rib of beef, and stuffed rolled pork, all the way to a special vegetarian Christmas feast, a chocolate pudding, a French Yule Log, an Australian Christmas Pudding, and The Boozy British Trifle. Nigella's cakes, as always, gladden the heart--and, like many of the recipes here, are at home all year round--but her At-a-Glance Christmas Lunch Countdown, together with make-ahead and freeze-ahead tips throughout, can help take the stress and strain out of the season. With its glorious illustrations, Nigella Christmas will surely be a perennial favorite--the book we will all reach for, for inspiration and reassurance, when Christmas comes around each year.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

U.K. celebrity chef Lawson (How to Eat, Nigella Bites, etc.) tackles Christmas in this warm, welcoming collection. Lawson's roundup of updated classics should provide a solid foundation for constructing an elaborate dinner menu or a simple cocktail party; alternately, readers can use one of Nigella's menus, centered around roast turkey, goose, pork or beef-as well as a vegetarian lineup featuring roasted pumpkin stuffed with a ginger and tomato sauce-that come complete with a Martha Stewart-worthy timeline and tips for handling leftovers. Daytime entertainers will appreciate Lawson's ideas for brunch, including an Espresso Martini and Pumpkin Pancakes with Sticky Maple Pecans, as well as recommendations for mulled wine, hot chocolate spiked with peppermint schnapps, and her Poinsettia cocktail, a combination of sparkling wine, Cointreau and cranberry juice. Though bakers may be weary of committing to a fruitcake or the intimidating Buche De Noel cake, Sticky Gingerbread and Lawson's chocolate cake-laced with cinnamon, cloves, and a Cointreau cream frosting-offer toothsome, worry-free alternatives. Gifts are also covered, including Vanilla Sugar, Dried Cherries in Cherry Brandy, infused vodkas and peanut brittle. Lawson's fans and those who've been looking for a solid Christmas cookbook will find this a valuable addition to the bookshelf, but anyone with a reliable Christmastime canon may find it redundant. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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The recipes are a mix of dishes that are quick to

prepare and cook--so you can have your dinner out of the grocery bag and on to the table in half an hour or so--and dishes that are easy to prepare early in the day and then are simply left to simmer slowly."â •Good Housekeeping

First let me say that I was fortunate to be able to meet the wonderful Ms. Lawson on December 9, 2009 when she visited Houston:[...]I already had all of her other books and immediately loved her casual style and easy take on cooking. Nigella Express I think is my favorite, particularly the Pollo alla Cacciatore, but I love all of the books. I made the Christmas Chocolate Cookies on page 206 twice, once on Christmas Eve, shortly before the yeast-free diet on January 4th. They really are easy to make and delicious to eat. I didn't have those holiday sprinkles, but ended up getting two containers of colored sugar sprinkles and mixing them--hey, it worked!! also want a cup that says "Keep Calm And Carry On." I've got the sign posted on my desk at work.Ms. Lawson's lecture stated that while she enjoys meeting fans and talking about food, it's simply out of a love of cooking and frequently, wanting to eat now. She doesn't like stressed out holidays, either--but who does? Read the book ahead of time, do a little planning, and you too can have a fantastic holiday that you can enjoy as well as your guests.Now, is there any of that Choco-Chili left???

Not my favorite of her cookbooks, but what I truly appreciate about Nigella is that her recipes always taste good and aren't too difficult to make. I would've probably enjoyed the Christmas one better had I not LOVED her Nigella Express book so much. The recipes in her Christmas book are okay, but there didn't seem to be as many and there weren't a lot of traditional foods. That said, I'd still recommend her cookbooks.

I should start out by saying that I don't cook Christmas dinner. That holiday is the province of my best girlfriend, though we are invited (ha! required!) to contribute to the meal. (If we didn't show up with appetizers and dessert there would be a lot of grumbling. Perhaps banishment.) However, we do plenty of cooking around the holidays (New Year's eve is our turn) -- and oh boy oh boy am I glad I have this new cookbook to inspire me. Because despite the title, Nigella could easily have called this book "Entertaining Without Losing Your Mind."Yes, a large part of the book is given over to recipes for "the main event," i.e. Christmas dinner. You'll find all the usual suspects (at least British style, such as a trifle rather than an apple pie). Certainly, if you're looking for a holiday cookbook, you will have reason to shout with joy.But unlike Thanksgiving, which means turkey to most people, Christmas has a lot more leeway in regard to what you serve. Ham, turkey, goose,

whatever. As a result, plenty of these recipes are suitable for ANYtime you want to entertain a crowd (depending on what "crowd" means to you and the size of your dining table, that could mean as few as 6 and as many as 20). There are several all-inclusive menus, any of which I'd be pleased to put before my guests and which, given Nigella's sensible attitudes about cooking ahead and taking life easy, I might get to enjoy as the cook, too. For example, one of her Christmas dinners is rolled stuffed loin with rubied gravy (ruby being port in this case), Italian roast potatoes with garlic and thyme, Christmas sprouts, red beet orzotto, and panettone pudding. That's a great Christmas meal, sure, but it'd work equally well for Easter. Or for a birthday dinner. Another reason that this cookbook is useful far beyond the holiday season is that Nigella is clearly aware that people do not show up on your doorstep on Christmas day and disappear that evening. It's a time when people move in for a week, and you have to think, "What the heck can I feed this crowd?" (The other things you think about your mother-in-law's arrival are... well, they aren't about cooking. Let's not go there.) Anyway, there are a whole bunch of recipes for "entertaining during the season" and they're going to be used year-round. First on my "make this now" list was a lamb and date tagine with pomegranete juice. (We don't eat lamb, so I made it with beef.) This was simply outstanding. The prep time for this stew (that's what a tagine is) was perhaps 15 minutes including pitting the dates; it baked quietly in the oven for two hours. And did I mention it was delicious? I love easy recipes like this, and I'm sure you do, too. (She serves a maple cheesecake with that menu; it would have gone with it perfectly.) I didn't wait to entertain, either. This fed the two of us for three very happy meals; that's among the virtues of a good stew. Next up on my "who needs a holiday?!" cooking schedule is her potato, parsnip and porcini gratin; or perhaps it'll be the parsleyed fish gratin ("the lazy person's answer to a fish pie"). The cookbook also has several chapters that are particularly welcome at this time of year, such as cocktails and appetizers; a Christmas brunch menu; edible presents and party preserves; and "a bevy of hot drinks." She also has several recipes for what to do with leftover turkey, which might be equally useful at Thanksgiving. Incidentally, you'll also find quite a few dishes that are suitable to serve to vegetarians, from butternut "orzotto" (risotto made with orzo) to a pumpkin and goat's cheese lasagna. And, of course, everything is kept simple... but not TOO simple. Which is why I've loved Nigella's cookbooks for years. I was initially a little concerned about ordering this cookbook because the UK site made it appear that several of the recipes are duplicated from her other books. I did spot a few that are repeats, but just a few, and most of them are variations. It might sound as though, if you already own *Feast*, you don't need this book. But this is absolutely unique and standalone, and if you made me choose between the two cookbooks... I would cajole you into changing your mind. Sure I can have both! What kind of friend are you? It's pretty obvious

that I'm in love with this cookbook. I'm sure you will feel the same way.

Anything by Nigella Lawson is amazing. She is funny and makes cooking fun.

Really nice recipes. Got a little hooked on the Lychee Martinis. Christmas pudding truffles are awesome. Will use the recipe for Christmas cake forever. Really easy recipe, best cake I've ever had. Nice book, totally recommend.

As always, Nigella used her magic to produce yummy and easy-to-follow recipes for this happy and highly expected festive occasion. As ever, she told them in her charming and witty way that made reading her cookbooks such a pleasure always. Although her cooking programs on TV had their own magic, reading her writing also had the charm of its own as great tips and some unexpected cooking knowledge and history could pop up anytime. You will never be disappointed with this book! Also look at the price, it is really such a great bargain! I am very happy with the book, at such a very cheap price from the great lovely chef too! Three cheers to Nigella Lawson! For those who love her, she has a FaceBook page and her own great website!

If she doesn't quit squealing with glee over this book, I'm going to have to hide it. It's so good, she tells me, that she has to limit herself to 20 minutes a day of reading. Otherwise, she won't get anything else accomplished. I think that's about the best review a book can receive.

Nigella Christmas is a beautiful book full of delicious food. And while heavy on the Red and Green, it's not just for Christmas. We paged through this book at a friend's home in London and when we returned to the US immediately bought the US version (you know, the kind that uses cups, not grams!). Check out the fish pie (savory) and the Girdlebuster pie (a frozen dessert of chocolate cookie crust, coffee ice cream and caramel topping!!!) Nigella also puts together entire menus for entertaining in the weeks before Christmas and a full-blow Christmas lunch complete with a schedule for getting everything done (4 hours of cooking on Christmas, so I won't be doing it, but it looks fab!). Enjoy.

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