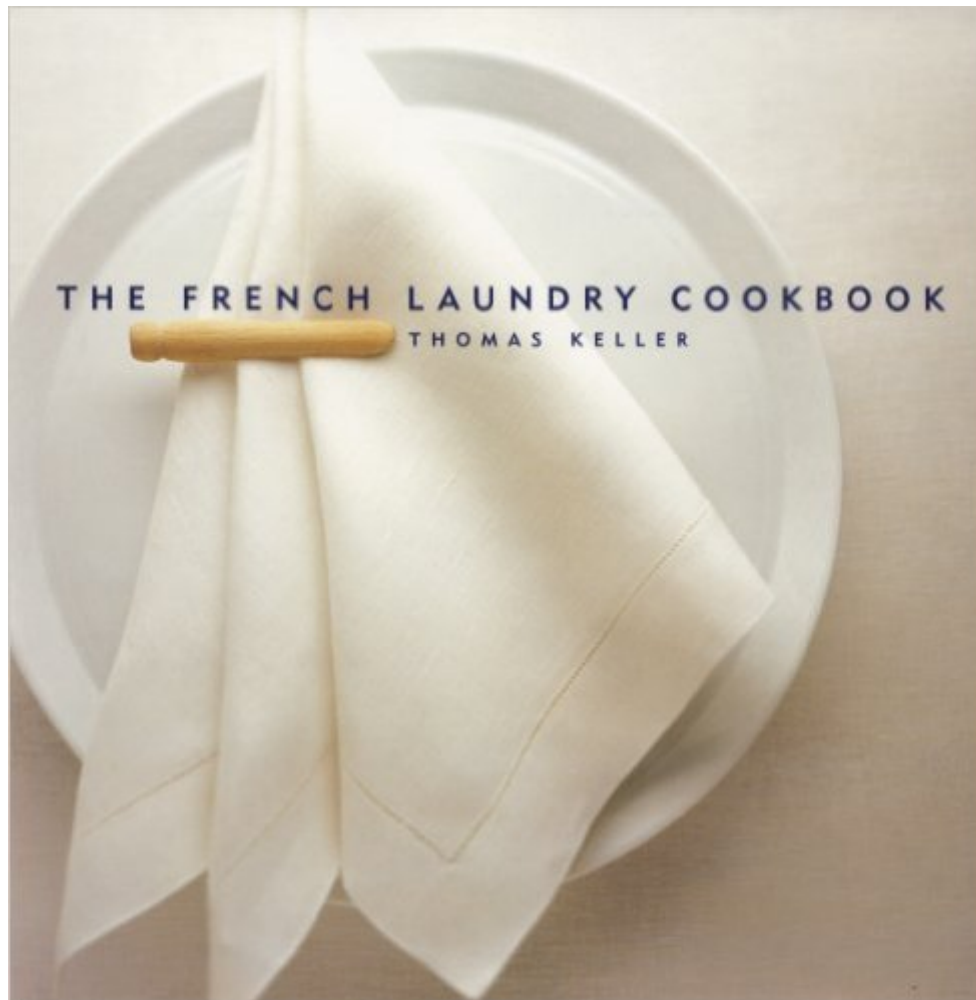


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The French Laundry Cookbook



Synopsis

2014 marks the twentieth anniversary of the acclaimed French Laundry restaurant in the Napa Valley "the most exciting place to eat in the United States" (The New York Times). The most transformative cookbook of the century celebrates this milestone by showcasing the genius of chef/proprietor Thomas Keller himself. Keller is a wizard, a purist, a man obsessed with getting it right. And this, his first cookbook, is every bit as satisfying as a French Laundry meal itself: a series of small, impeccable, highly refined, intensely focused courses. Most dazzling is how simple Keller's methods are: squeegeeing the moisture from the skin on fish so it sautés beautifully; poaching eggs in a deep pot of water for perfect shape; the initial steeping in the shell that makes cooking raw lobster out of the shell a cinch; using vinegar as a flavor enhancer; the repeated washing of bones for stock for the cleanest, clearest tastes. From innovative soup techniques, to the proper way to cook green vegetables, to secrets of great fish cookery, to the creation of breathtaking desserts; from beurre monté to foie gras au torchon, to a wild and thoroughly unexpected take on coffee and doughnuts, The French Laundry Cookbook captures, through recipes, essays, profiles, and extraordinary photography, one of America's great restaurants, its great chef, and the food that makes both unique. One hundred and fifty superlative recipes are exact recipes from the French Laundry kitchen "no shortcuts have been taken, no critical steps ignored, all have been thoroughly tested in home kitchens. If you can't get to the French Laundry, you can now re-create at home the very experience Wine Spectator described as "as close to dining perfection as it gets."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've eaten at the French Laundry three times now-most recently the first week of September 2002. This makes it spring, summer, and fall. My next trip to Napa will be to see how he (Chef Thomas Keller) manages with winter vegetables. Chef Keller offers three menus: a five-course dinner menu; a nine-course tasting of vegetables menu; and his 10-course prix fixe menu (which is currently \$135). He follows the typical French format: Amuse Bousche (His signature salmon tartar with sweet red onion crème fraîche)1. Cold Hors d'oeuvre2. Vegetable or Foie Gras3. Fish4. Seafood (or second fish course)5. Rabbit or Veal6. Pork or Lamb7. Cheese8. Sorbet9. Dessert10. Mignardise (petit fours and candies) Sometime in your life, you must experience this restaurant. It will be the best four-hour dinner of your life! Now for the book review. The book is presented in a way that shows a lot of planning went into it. While the recipes have many ingredients and details, the instructions are written in a manner that everyone can follow. If you're an experienced cook, this may slow you down a bit. There is plenty of background to the recipes that you won't find elsewhere; such as big pot blanching and how to handle your homemade stocks. I've made about 10-15 recipes out of this book. All work... eventually. They require three or four read-throughs, full preparation of equipment and ingredients (mise en place) before starting, an understanding of what happens to food when heat is applied, and better-than-average knife skills. Keep in mind there are a few bugs here and there.

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