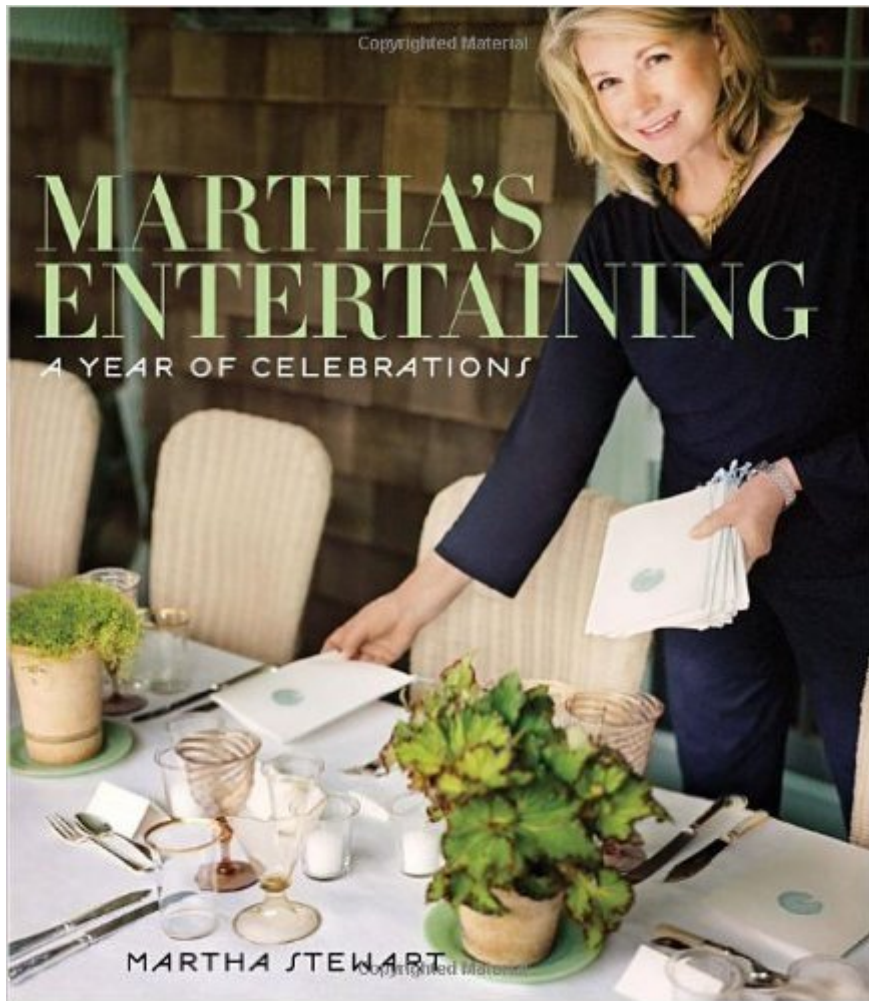


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# Martha's Entertaining: A Year Of Celebrations



## Synopsis

In this exquisite and very personal book, Martha Stewart welcomes you into her world, where she entertains in the expressive and beautiful style that she has made so famous. Whether a simple blueberry breakfast on a Sunday morning in Maine or a more lavish holiday dinner at Bedford, each of the gatherings is equally memorable, for what Martha cherishes above all is spending time and sharing delicious food with her family and friends. "A meal of substantial finger foods with ingenious cocktails, a sit-down formal dinner, a buffet supper, or something more relaxed such as a backyard barbecue" each is a welcome and inviting way to entertain," writes Martha. Featuring elegant and casual affairs held throughout the year and a diverse collection of enticing recipes, Martha's Entertaining shows us "in the broadest and most lovely fashion" what it really means to entertain and host today. From an afternoon Easter egg hunt for children to a festive Halloween dinner held inside her horse stable; from a sophisticated cocktail party on a friend's yacht in New York Harbor to a spring garden f"ate amid the most glorious beds of peonies, Martha's parties offer a glimpse inside her beautiful homes. Each is unforgettable and endlessly inspiring. "All of the events feature menus and stories for dreaming and planning, as well as delicious yet approachable recipes: Tomato and Gruy"re Toasts, Mini Crab Cakes with Tarragon Tartar Sauce, Tiny Tuna Burgers, Leek and Porcini Risotto, Wild-Mushroom Lasagna, Braised Short Ribs, Roast Turkey Breast with Sage Butter, Rhubarb Crumbles, Blueberry Jam Tartlets, and Chocolate Honey Ice Cream with Butterscotch Sauce, plus some of Martha's favorite drinks, including Pomegranate Cosmopolitans and Honeydew Mojitos. Mix and match the recipes to create your own distinctive occasion. "Set among Martha's dining rooms, kitchens, gardens, and patios, this is her most intimate book yet, a new classic for hosts and home cooks of every generation.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 432 pages

Publisher: Clarkson Potter; 1st edition (October 25, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307396460

ISBN-13: 978-0307396464

Product Dimensions: 10.1 x 1.6 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars " See all reviews" (85 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #153,539 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in " Books > Cookbooks, Food

## Customer Reviews

I bought this book sight unseen through the internet. I have been a fan of Ms. Stewart's for many years, although I am not familiar with her first entertaining book written many moons ago. I wish I had taken a glance at this book in person before buying it. The book seems like it has much more style than it does substance, as the pages are filled with beautiful, lush photos of her many homes and gathering places yet it isn't heavy on instruction for entertaining. At first look it also comes across as a bit of a marketing pitch for her many products. I give it three stars: it is indeed a beautiful book, but I am disappointed with its contents.

Pure Martha! In her latest, and definitely one of her better publishing efforts, the Queen of Domesticity and all that resembles party perfection, has given us an updated version of her 1982 breakout book, "Entertaining". In typical pristine fashion, Martha and her writing and publishing team, have obviously worked quite hard on creating this most beautiful collection of parties that range from casual to formal, and gatherings from small to large proportions, in the typical detailed atmosphere that people would expect from her. This solid, heavy (6 pounds---yes, I weighed it!), large (10" x 11.5") lavish book on entertaining for all occasions has all the markings of both a finely produced coffee table-style book, which includes all the surroundings and trappings of party details, along with recipes and photography that she has been known for in all her years of being Martha. The photography is fabulous and crystal clear, the text straightforward, and the recipe instructions easy. That being said, while this is a visually beautiful book to look at, and all the recipes from each gathering are given, this is not a detailed cooking or craft book, in that you're not given step-by-step instruction. The photography for the food, decorations, and how the events are staged is presented close up; you can almost taste the foods! But for more precise how-to's on these matters, she has other books (over 75 assorted subjects) to turn to for detailed instruction. The book is a compilation of over 4 years of parties that she has given in her various homes and other venues, which were photographed in progress with the eager blessings of those invited. Events varied from small sit-down dinners and showers to large-scale affairs. The "themes" of each were planned with the different seasons in mind as well as for the various parts of the day, so to give ideas for mornings, afternoons, and evenings. As an aside, her latest home in Maine, The Skylands (which was built by Edsel Ford) is breathtaking. Though there are not a multitude of photographs of the entire home, those that are shown, smack of the old-school pride in architecture and detail which homes built in

the 1920's era were known for; the views and grounds are magnificent. In articles from her Martha Stewart Magazine and such, she spoke of finding this place and the intensive work she had put into restoring it back to its original splendor and grace; it is in those publications that more photos of the home are seen. None of her efforts were wasted as it truly has such elegant glamour. This is definitely a Martha home. Approximately 80% of the book is devoted to the gatherings that were held, and the remaining 20% is the recipe section. While I mentioned that she did not go into great detail on everything, she does describe each event as much as possibly allowed; she had mentioned that originally, she had enough material for double the volume of pages that this book has (432 pages to be exact) but her publishers persuaded her otherwise. Some might be wondering why I would know some of this minutia and it's because I went to her book signing, where she spoke in length about the book. Yes, she lives in a different world than most of us, but she does know how to do things elegantly. And while most of us don't have her means to have such a generous lifestyle, we can still find our own ways of imitating Martha's style, as well our own art of preparing joyous gatherings for family and friends. The book is divided into "Mornings", "Afternoons", and "Evenings" with appropriate menu's and ideas for grand affairs. Some examples of the recipes are popovers w/ some creamed spinach and eggs for breakfast or maybe some fluffy buttermilk pancakes. For lunch, some mini-BLT's or deviled eggs (with bunny shapes cut from carrots!) along with skewered chicken. Dinner could be simple like braised shortribs with green beans and mashed potatoes or maybe a savory potpie. And don't get me started on the desserts!! I feel that a few of her recipes might be updated from past times but they are tried and true; the majority of them are new. I also need to mention that I gladly found these recipes to be more common in that they don't require runs to the specialty shoppes in order to find the ingredients; they seem more accessible. The foods that I have tried has been absolutely delicious so I really do not think that you will be disappointed in any of the dishes that you will make. Then to round off the parties, there are the settings and tablescapes that are just breathtaking, and her gardening sections and photography are beyond words. For instance, if you're having a tree cut down on your property, why not have the cutters slice you some thick wedges of it to use as a serving tray or platter? What an elegant way to present something special! Or taking that tree and having one of the branches horizontally cut into small place card holders; make a slit across the piece and it will hold a placecard with someones name on it. That was one idea that was simple but smart. Nothing seems to have been spared in making this book such a beautiful reference book. I really feel that you will find this just right for yourself or for someone who appreciates a well-written book on parties and gatherings; the ideas are abundant and generous, and the price for this book here at is perfect (gotta get a plug in for them too). Peace

and joy in your gatherings during the coming holidays!!

Love every bit of this book had to offer. I am an avid subscriber of her Living magazine and follower of her blog but I still find this book extremely entertaining. It inspires anyone to grasp the concept of "entertaining" through the beautiful coffee table type photos and well described pages. It does not even attempt to dictate the reader that the only place possible to lavishly celebrate life is to live in Maine. It teaches us to embrace the beauty of what you have, where you live and add a bit more passion to it. I would definitely consider this as a perfect gift to guests during the holidays.

Back in the early 80's I was gifted with Martha's original "Entertaining" book and termed it 'my bible' when it came to recipes and how to's when hosting events for friends and family. It was impossible for me to ignore the new Entertaining book when I first heard about it but, in all sincerity, it is NOTHING like its predecessor. The new book is gorgeous to look at but it's a page thru book not at all with the recipes or techniques within the pages of the first one. I hunted for a variety of recipes when hosting a dinner last week and ended up completely out of luck for anything useful or tempting in the back-of-the-book recipes Martha offered this time. Many are unusual but they aren't of the variety where the average hostess would take advantage of them. These are if you are entertaining a multitude of guests and need fancy, unreal items that would be purchased obviously somewhere on the east coast close to Martha but definitely not anything at my local grocery store. Some of the ideas are unique but the practical applications are as far fetched as thinking Martha does all her own slicing & dicing. I'll go back to my original Entertaining and use the new one if I get bored. I'm grateful that I could purchase the new book on and not have to pay the exorbitant price suggested inside the front cover - \$75. This new book is not worth \$75 whereas the old one is well worth its original \$35.

I've always been captivated by Martha Stewart's ingenuity at creating beautiful tables and original dishes. This book was extremely expensive. I was looking forward to it because I have the original book from decades ago. I was quite disappointed. There is nothing really original about it, except maybe its size. It is quite thick and heavy. I didn't find anything that I could, or really would use. It's a very pretty coffee table book. If you are the type of entertainer that likes do-able things, this is not for you. I was not impressed by the substance, but certainly by the size and cost. I hope you enjoy it more than I did.

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