



The New Persian Kitchen

Louisa Shafia

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This luscious and contemporary take on the alluring cuisine of Iran from cookbook author Louisa Shafia features 75 recipes for both traditional Persian dishes and modern reinterpretations using Middle Eastern ingredients.

In *The New Persian Kitchen*, acclaimed chef Louisa Shafia explores her Iranian heritage by reimagining classic Persian recipes from a fresh, vegetable-focused perspective. These vibrant recipes demystify Persian ingredients like rose petals, dried limes, tamarind, and sumac, while offering surprising preparations for familiar foods such as beets, carrots, mint, and yogurt for the busy, health-conscious cook. The nearly eighty recipes—such as Turmeric Chicken with Sumac and Lime, Pomegranate Soup, and ice cream sandwiches made with Saffron Frozen Yogurt and Cardamom Pizzelles—range from starters to stews to sweets, and employ streamlined kitchen techniques and smart preparation tips. A luscious, contemporary take on a time-honored cuisine, *The New Persian Kitchen* makes the exotic and beautiful tradition of seasonal Persian cooking both accessible and inspirin

The New Persian Kitchen Details

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From Reader Review The New Persian Kitchen for online ebook

Grace says

I've really enjoyed everything I've made from this book so far. It's great fun seeing ingredients I would normally use (and some new ones) transformed into satisfying and healthy dishes with really unusual flavors. I would recommend this book even if you're not especially interested in Persian cuisine - the recipes are straightforward and delicious, and many are achievable for weeknight dinners.

Kimberly Ann says

The book is printed on plain paper, clearly visible print and many (in my opinion not enough) color photos of many of the dishes. A few of the dishes come w/ a "vegetarian" option, the titles are printed in English in red with the Farsi below in a smaller brown script. There is a small explanation of the dish w/ optional variations & serving suggestions & the number of servings. The recipes & ingredients are clear easy to read & follow... but Middle Eastern cooking takes a bit of time when it comes to preparation, so these are not quick & easy meals.

I really enjoy the discussion of spices, many of which I often use, and I found a better way to prepare my saffron before adding it to my dishes.

The book is broken down to the following sections: Introduction; Overview; Guide to Persian Ingredients; ten (10) sections of Recipe; Menus; Resources; Acknowledgements; About the Author; and Index.

The recipes for the most part are gluten free, use minimal of oil & fat, and call for alternatives to white sugar. There are several Jewish/Kosher recipes, which in my mind do not mix with the other dishes.

Starters & Snacks: As the authors states Iranians really do not serve "appetizers" but a series of small plates to awaken the the palate & appetite.... Whole grilled fava beans; Winter squash fritters w/ rose petals; New potatoes w/ dill & lemon; Turkish roasted tomato & red pepper dip (Armenians serve this too); Garlicky eggplant & tomato spread; Passover Charoset (see...Kosher).

Soups: Cold pistachio w/ mint & leeks; Saffron corn soup (this sounded really good); "Persian 'Matzoh Balls' w/ chickpeas & chicken (Riiiiight); Savory amaranth & turkey porridge; Cleansing spring nettle soup; and one of My Favorites Ash-e Reshteh (Bean, herb & noodle soup).

Salads: Chicken w/ potatoes & olives (Salad Olivie); Tomato & Cucumber; Vinegar carrots w/ toasted sesame seeds; & Radish, rhubarb & strawberry.

Vegetable & Egg Entrees: Herb frittata w/ walnuts & rose petals (Kuku sabzi, very often served during lent & easter w/ fish); Roasted stuffed artichokes w/ mint oil (this sounded good); Stuffed tomatoes w/ pistachio pesto; and Tempeh kebabs w/ minty cilantro-lime sauce.

Meat & Fish Entrees: Chile-saffron fish kebabs; Parvin's tamarind stuffed fish; Lamb kebabs in pomegranate-walnut marinade (fesenjan sauce); Grilled liver w/ cumin, garlic, & fresh basil; and Turmeric chicken w/ sumac & lime.

Main Dish Stews & casseroles: Pomegranate walnut stew (fesenjan); Barley stew w/ lamb & rhubarb; Seared chicken & peaches; Green herb & kidney bean stew w/ dried lemons (Gormeh sabzi, my favorite); and Persian gulf style spicy tamarind fish stew.

Rice & Grains: Saffron rice (my favorite); Sweet rice w/ carrots & nuts; Rice w/ rose petals & barberries (sour); Quinoa w/ french lentils, wild rice & golden raisins; and Rice w/ favas (or limas) & fresh dill (another of my favorites & easy to make).

Sweets: Chickpea & almond flour icebox cookies (yum); Rhubarb & rose water sorbet w/ rice noodles; pomegranate semifreddo w/ blood orange compote; Amaranth rice pudding w/ rose water; and No-bake persimmon & goat cheese cheesecake.

Beverages: Salty mint yogurt soda; Sour cherry spritzer (so refreshing in summer); Cardamom coffee; Naturally sweet dried lime tea; and Winter orchard tea.

Pickles and Preserves: Sour plum pickle; Mixed vegetable pickle; Fig mustard; Tamarind date chutney; and Sour cherry & rose preserves.

Rosemary Burton says

Gross

I didn't like any of the recipes ... I will return the digital version nothing appealing to a family who doesn't eat nuts or beans.

Tressa says

The New Persian Kitchen was educational and had interesting recipes.

BookBec says

I enjoyed the tastes but not always the textures of the recipes I made from this book.

Erinn Batykefer says

Wonderful. Shafia's recipes are easy to make, and are grouped into sections that follow a Persian meal, so flipping through gives you a sense of progression, flavors, and style before you even get down to making anything.

We tried the following recipes over the course of a couple weeks:

- New potatoes with dill and lemon (easy, very fresh)

- Cucumber and watermelon salad
- Grilled shrimp with lime powder and parsley olive oil sauce (used lime juice and zest, since powdered lime wasn't easily available)
- Lamb meatballs with mint and garlic (not a favorite, but the techno for the meatballs resulted in a light texture that we'll definitely replicate)
- Chicken kebabs in yogurt marinade (versatile technique)
- Turmeric chicken with sumac and lime (we found sumac and za'taar at our local penzey's)
- Jeweled Brown basmati rice and quinoa(a huge favorite)

I loved that Shafia also pulled together suggested menus, sidebar content that looked at Iranian /Persian history and cuisine, and suggested workable substitutes for ingredients that might be specialty depending on where you live.

Scarlet says

Whooo!

Slight issues were salt measurements were different to normal and rosewater was a different kind and harder to find, but I think she specifies this somewhere and I ignored it. Common sense was used and all was cool. Good tagine recipe and her ghormeh sabzi was better than mine...

Her fesenjan wasn't up to par with mine, however *smug face*, but she shortens the stewing time by quite a bit; which could be a positive. STILL CAN'T GET MY RICE ON POINT (ASHAMED). Overall accessible, pretty-looking and cool recipes for every occasion.

Alison says

I haven't made anything from this yet, but most of the recipies were very approachable. The author also built in a lot of flexibility, providing vegetarian versions of several of the meat-based dishes. I'm looking forward to cooking from this - there are a mix of things that will be great for weeknights, for more involved weekend cooking, and potentially for entertaining as well.

Juli Anna says

What a gem! Beautiful, light, flavorful recipes and a vegetarian option for each one! I am excited to try some of these out.

Ann Gibson says

This cookbook is part history of Iranian people, culture and foods. The other part is recipes. In the first part, the author gives a list of typical ingredients found in Persian cooking, and where and how to use them. I thought her tip about extracting flavor from Saffron very helpful, as this is one of my favorite spices and

usually in my pantry. Each recipe has a little history, making this book something to savor and appreciate beyond your typical cookbook. She also shows how you can make almost all recipes vegetarian, which I appreciate as some of the sauces for fish looked appetizing, but being allergic to fish, not for me.

Michelle says

Lovely little book, delightful stories and info and recipes. The author grew up in America with an Iranian father and a Jewish mother. Loved the stories and recipes--only caveats that many ingredients are not going to be available here, and no nutrition info. But she does provide vegetarian options.

Debbie says

I really enjoyed reading this cookbook. Although many of the recipes aren't recipes I'm longing to try some are intriguing and worth the experiment. What I appreciated most of all was learning about the history and cultural traditions of the Middle East and most especially of Iran.

Louisa Shafia explained ingredients, told stories and provided recipes that are very well written.

Aja Marsh says

3.5 - i liked her last book a bit better, but this one was great for an intro to Persian cuisine from a healthy, sustainable perspective. There are about 10 pages or more at the beginning that are all Iranian culinary history and throughout the book there are other snippets of info, including how food from different religions is integral to the food of Iran. So I enjoyed that. That being said, none of the recipes blew me away though most of them sounded good.

Zora O'Neill says

Writing a review of Naomi Duguid's Persia book reminded me of this great cookbook I already had--and more than anything else I already knew, it probably set the stage most for me to really appreciating Duguid's book, and not finding it intimidating (as more "ethnographic"-style books can sometimes be). Thanks to Shafia, I had a lot of ingredients on hand, and knew some techniques.

This book is a **great** introduction to Persian food and is very practical about how to cook it in your own kitchen. It seldom calls for super-obscure ingredients, and the instructions are very precise. If you know nothing about the region's food, and really want to cook it (rather than fantasize about traveling or whatever), I'd recommend this as a starter much more than Duguid's.

Shafia is super-detailed about things like how to get that crispy rice on the bottom of your pot. Her technique for dealing with pomegranates is truly life-changing. And she's very good at saying what a traditional recipe might be, and specifying how/if she has changed it. (My peeve is books that gloss over this.) Her gormeh sabzi recipe is in my regular rotation, and I've made some great winter soups from this book too.

Robert Hudder says

I found myself wondering at this book as many of the ingredients are things that I use partially because of my interest in Indian cooking and partially because I love new ingredients. Salted limes, persimmons, pomegranates, and sumac showed up in some of this recipes. I ended up photocopying a few. Most of them were soups that were more hearty and had touches of acid or sour. One recipe included rhubarb in a savoury preparation.

If these recipes become mainstays in my house, I may consider buying this book but right now, it served to make me think about making some Persian dishes rather than using the ingredients as I do now. That is, as a grace not to the dishes I usually make.
