

[Download] The Gourmet Cookie Book: The Single Best Recipe from Each Year 1941-2009 by Gourmet Magazine (Oct 8 2010)

## **The Gourmet Cookie Book: The Single Best Recipe from Each Year 1941-2009 by Gourmet Magazine (Oct 8 2010)**

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**aa : The Gourmet Cookie Book: The Single Best Recipe from Each Year 1941-2009 by Gourmet Magazine (Oct 8 2010)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gourmet Cookie Book: The Single Best Recipe from Each Year 1941-2009 by Gourmet Magazine (Oct 8 2010):

131 of 134 people found the following review helpful. A history, with recipes and photos, of the cookie at Gourmet MagazineBy Debbie Lee WesselmannAs a longtime subscriber to both Gourmet and Bon Appetit, I used to tell people that I liked Gourmet for its savory recipes and Bon Appetit for its sweets. This new compilation of the best cookie recipes, decade by decade, from Gourmet confronted me with the fallacy of that statement. Some of my long-time favorite cookie recipes, including strawberry tart cookies and cranberry pistachio biscotti, can be found here. The best part of this book, however, is not the recipes, as good as they are, but the history behind them. The division of the recipes by decades offers glimpses into trends, subscribers, changing culinary tastes and abilities, and, of course, the focus of the magazine itself. Interestingly, when the magazine was first published in 1940s and people baked more than they do today, the cookie recipes were much more simple, with tastes that highlighted a few ingredients: butter, nuts, spices. Even in the 1950s, when baking ingredients were more available, the cookies remained somewhat homey and classic, with gingerbread men, lace cookies, and sesame-seed-coated queen's biscuits taking center stage. In the 1960s, however, Gourmet's cookies started taking on a more international note; as the editors note, commercialized air travel and growing national unrest led to more daring recipes. As the book states, "not a single one of the four cookie recipes

that appeared in *Gourmet* in 1963 was of American origin." With this new internationalism came other recipes with more sophisticated lists of ingredients and flavors. By jumping ahead to the 2000s, *Gourmet*'s final decade, one can see how much American tastes have changed: many of the cookies are classics with gourmet twists that make them look more like professionally baked treats than homemade lunch box snacks. Because the book contains a full page photograph of each recipe, it is obvious that later recipes focused as much on aesthetics as taste, while most earlier ones were content with a plain appearance. Because this book contains recipes exactly as they appeared in the magazine (with some recipe notes for clarification), contemporary bakers may be somewhat taken aback by the format in the earlier decades, as their directions are "remarkably casual, a kind of mysterious shorthand that assumes that each reader is an accomplished cook." While I dispute that these early recipes require any sort of advanced experience, they are definitely written out as though one person is describing the process to another, with ingredients not listed separately but as part of the instructions. (Separate lists of ingredients don't appear until 1982, when recipes were "no longer able to count on the readers' experience.") In some ways, I found the earlier recipes easier to follow because I didn't have to worry about going back and forth between adding sugar and reading how much sugar was called for. The amount was right there in the text. But how are the recipes themselves? Absolutely wonderful. Not a single one of the recipes I tried missed, although, obviously, some recipes, such as the sparkling lemon sandwich cookies, took more time and effort. From the humble honey refrigerator cookies to the sophisticated coconut macadamia shortbread, these recipes will please contemporary palates.-- Debbie Lee Wesselmann

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Cookie Recipe Book Not Just For Holidays By gottaread Great cookie recipe book. There is some time travel involved while reading recipes. Yes, I actually enjoy reading recipes when I can carve out the time. I've started reading them in bed, like I do my other books, until I fall asleep. I use post-it-notes to mark the recipes I'm making. The Scotch Oat Crunchies (oatmeal cookie sandwich) recipe from the 1940s is very good. It reminded me of a cookie my grandmother made. After I made the Old-Fashioned Christmas Butter Cookies, I thought they were the very same ones my mom made when I was a kid. They are so good--they melt in your mouth. I have to confess that I used the Chocolate Wafer cookies I made, from the 1950's section, in an Ice Box Cake I put together...delicious. The lemon thins from the 1970's are very good--my daughter could not eat enough according to her. Cloudt's Pecan Treats from the 1980's is fabulous (I love pecan pie, so this is right up my palate). I am a huge biscotti fan, so I very much enjoyed making and eating the Cranberry Pistachio Biscotti. One of my sons enjoyed his with some decaf tea. The recipes are well laid out and descriptive. Each step you need to take is listed to make a cookie. The type is a little smaller so be prepared to pull out glasses. Some recipes are more advanced than others. The book leaves it up to the reader which one is right for them. The pictures are terrific and very tempting. These cookies are not just for holidays. I will be baking them year-round. If you like to bake, and if you like to bake with kids, this is a great book to have. It is also fun to learn some history and share that with others.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Classic! By Katawampas If you love cookies baking cookies, this cookbook has the "Single Best of the Year" cookie recipes from *Gourmet Magazine* from 1941-2009. I checked this out from the library realized I had to own this book. Not only is it beautiful with a large photo of each recipe but the recipes are fantastic. There are some really old fashioned, delicious cookies in here. Some of my favorites are the "Speculass"/1971, "Scotch Oat Crumbles"/1943, "Honey Refrigerator Cookies"/1942 the "Bourbon Balls/1980. I've baked my way through about half the recipes so far every single one is wonderful. The recipes are in order by year. On the left side is the recipe with a description of where it came from how it ended up in the magazine. On the right side is the full color photo of the baked cookie. The index is organized by ingredients such as "Almond, Anise, Fig", etc., by name of the cookie, type of cookie such as "Bar, Christmas", etc. It is very easy to find a specific cookie. I ordered my hard cover copy from ebooksworld. It was in excellent condition, as described.