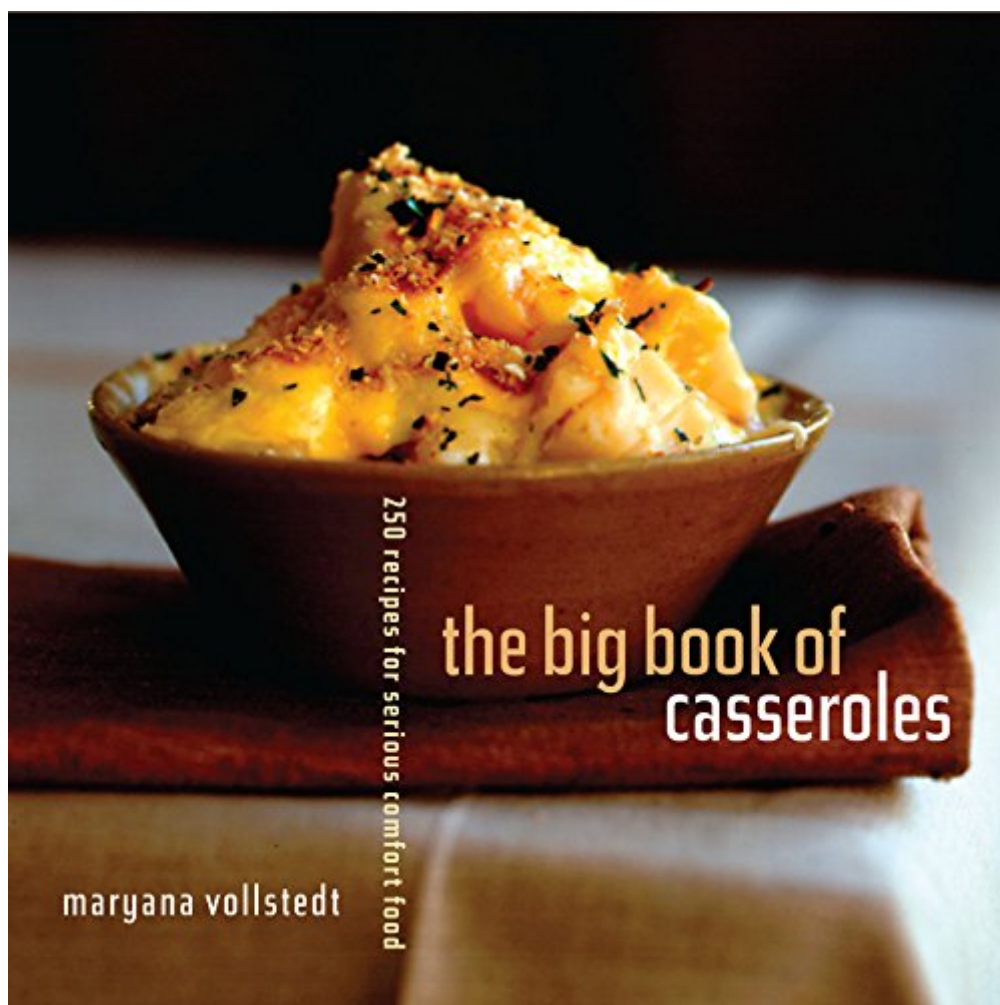


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The Big Book Of Casseroles: 250 Recipes For Serious Comfort Food



Synopsis

Bubbling cheese, golden bread crumbs, tender vegetables, and succulent meats - what's not to like about casseroles? Comfort food just doesn't get any cozier, or more convenient. Now, thanks to Maryana Vollstedt, busy cooks don't have to call up Mom in order to make delicious one-dish meals for family and friends. The Big Book of Casseroles boasts over 250 recipes (including low-fat and vegetarian dishes), plus handy planning, freezing, and storage tips. For hot-from-the-oven dinners equally at home in the dining room or on the kitchen table, cooks need look no further than The Big Book of Casseroles, because serious comfort food never goes out of style.

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Customer Reviews

These recipes are great because most of them are very easy and can be prepared ahead of time then popped in the oven a 1/2 hour or so before you eat. As a stay-at-home mom - I can put the dish together while the kids are napping, then am free to play with them during that cranky time before dinner. And every recipe we've tried is delicious!

I love this cookbook. The recipes are very easy to make with ingredients most of us have in the

pantry. The only tools you need are a knife and casserole dish or dutch oven. While the book features comfort food for home or a friendly potluck, many of the recipes are fancy enough for special company. Very easy to read -- each recipe gets its own page. One warning, though -- a number of the recipes feature cheese/sour cream, so it isn't exactly a low-calorie cookbook. For a recent potluck, I used the reduced fat cheese and sour cream, and no one who ate it could tell the difference.

I was interested in casseroles because I wanted recipes for dishes I can make ahead and freeze. This book exceeded my expectations. It has all the old favorites like tuna noodle and new ones like Osso Bucco. It even has a section on lower fat casseroles and a section on making recipes healthier. Every recipe I've tried has been a winner and have received lots of compliments. Some of the recipes are one dish suppers like Salmon and Peas, very tasty and easy to prepare. What it lacks in photos it makes up for in creativity.

I must admit that I was not expecting much from this book. However, I have been pleasantly surprised to say the least (these are not the boring 1975 style casseroles that our mothers served to us). The recipes I have made so far were so good, they could be served to company! Many of the recipes call for wine - which really brings the dish up to a whole new level. The recipes are easy, and for the most part uncomplicated. I have made both the Country Chicken Stew and the Chicken Italian - both FABULOUS! One note about the Country Chicken Stew- I suggest using the brown "crimini" style mushrooms, as they are so much better than the boring white generic supermarket mushrooms. (I made the stew both ways - and the brown mushrooms made it classier and soooo much better) One comment on the Tuna Casserole - I have made it twice...very quick and easy. However, it is dry - so I recommend making it with twice the amount called for of the basic white sauce. Overall - a verrrrry nice book. It is an unexpected find!

You'll strike exciting, easy one dish meals with this book loaded with various ingredients and styles. They're all here--from chicken pot pies to seafood to Mexican to Pizza casseroles to Moroccan influenced. This is broad in its scope and rich in its diversity, from entrees to side dishes such as the nice section of rich gratins. I'm especially fond of the Orange-Hazelnut Chicken and the Beer Beef Stew with Parslied Buttermilk Dumplings, Greek Chicken and Rice. This is a prime candidate to get the kids in the cooking mode. Good place to have them join the fun and experience of cooking.

I agree with other reviewers. I got this book a couple of days ago and made my first recipe tonight - chicken breasts in a tomato sauce w/black beans. I canvased my cabinets for ingredients, then found a recipe to use what I had on hand. It was a breeze to prep and would be great for a make-ahead dinner. Dish was v. flavorful - not your standard tomato sauce; and I like that the recipe is v. adaptable. Although some recipes have a lot of ingredients, it seems it's just a matter of tossing things into a pot. I look forward to working my way through all 250 recipes!

I borrowed this book from my local library and started marking the recipes I wanted to keep. It was about half the book! I decided to buy it instead. I cook with fresh, healthful ingredients - no canned soup in my pantry. This cook book has so many interesting recipes - I can't wait to try them all. I am a working mom, and need dinner to be on the table in 30 minutes or less during the week. This book has dishes for my cramped schedule during the week, and fancier recipes I can save for the weekend too. I can't wait for my very own copy to arrive. If you consider yourself a cook, you will be happy with this book.

Don't expect color photos here, but the dishes are quite simple to put together and contain a complexity in flavors which challenges the traditional image of the overcooked and under-flavored casserole result. From Beer Beef Stew with Parslied Buttermilk Dumplings to Baked Tandoori Chicken on Lentils, Big Book of Casseroles is filled with appeal.

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