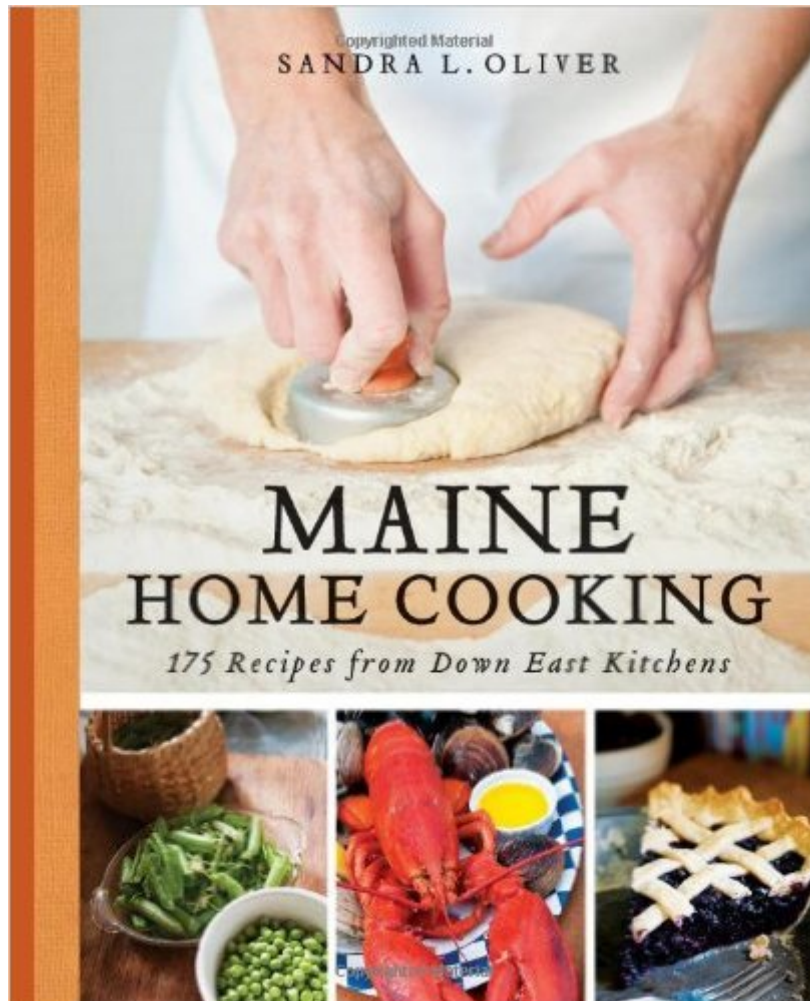


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# Maine Home Cooking: 175 Recipes From Down East Kitchens



## Synopsis

Residing on Maine's Islesboro Island, Sandra Oliver is a revered food historian with a vast knowledge of New England food history, subsistence living, and Yankee cooking. For the past five years, she has published her weekly recipes column, "Tastebuds", in the Bangor Daily News. The column has featured hundreds of recipes "from classic tried-and-true dishes to innovative uses for traditional ingredients. Collecting more than 300 recipes from her column and elsewhere, and emphasizing fresh, local ingredients, as well as the common ingredients found in most kitchens, this volume represents a new standard in home cooking.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've spent many a summer in Maine and have had my eye on Maine Home Cooking: 175 Recipes from Down East Kitchens for a bit. Sandra Oliver has for many years written a recipe column for the Bangor Daily News. People from all over send in their taste memories or questions and Sandra digs up the recipe to fit the bill. Often she'll put out a request for a certain recipe, get several replies and test them to come up with one great recipe - and make no mistake, these are some great recipes! Now, let me be up front with you. Over the years I have learned that there are two kinds of cooks - those who view a recipe more as a guideline than something set in stone and those who approach a recipe as if they are performing nuclear chemistry, exactly copying the precise ingredients and even expecting the final product to look exactly like the picture in the book. There is nothing whatever wrong with either sort of cook, but if you are the "nuclear chemistry" sort then this is absolutely NOT a book for you. Only a few of the recipes have pictures (though they all have great stories from Down East) and virtually all of them have more options than not. It is probably a

good thing that I have a Kindle copy rather than a hard copy. I've used mine so much that the pages would long-since be well stained - and I only bought this a few weeks ago LOL! Let me tell you about some of my most favorite recipes - TEST RECIPE - BLUEBERRY CAKE Maine is known for their wild blueberries. Every summer we picked them by the bucketful, then turned them into jam, pies and this Blueberry Cake.

Since my family has decreed that it is time for some of the cookbooks in this house to go my 13 year old grandson started inventorying the collection with a small hand held scanner and a computer. For the first couple of shelves I helped him and then I realized that he was doing better without me and that I was much better at rearranging the books in an order that worked for me. During the rummaging around (shelves in four rooms and, as it turns out, about 500 books plus a lot of ephemera such as the late lamented King Arthur Baking Sheet, the little Maine newsletter that I loved and Simple Cooking) I found my somewhat buried copy of Sandy Oliver's wonderful cookbook. I'd forgotten about it and I'd also forgotten how wonderful it is. I just ordered several used copies to sell in my used book shop and also ordered a copy for a friend who is in the slammer -- currently cooking is his "job" in the camp section -- and who loves Maine more than almost anything. Alas he won't be able to get many if not most of the ingredients (last year he was running the gardens which he decided not to do this year as the prison administration was so unhelpful about getting in basic equipment such as irrigation hoses although they ordered brand new John Deere tractors, and in signing up inmates who might actually have some gardening experience. But that is a long story and has nothing to do with this cookbook except that I hope he can use it to make some stuff such as bread, soups, salads, or casseroles. My only complaints are, I see by reading other reviews, echoing others: why are the side bars and the comments printed in colors which offer almost no contrast and which are almost impossible to read. The other grumble is the size of the font for the page numbers.

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