



WebCritique

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Cooking with Amy : A Food Blog

Amy Sherman's Cooking with Amy, based in San Francisco, is one of the top food blogs, with a tasty mix of recipes, opinion pieces, and reviews. It's got a friendly down-to-earth feel that bigger sites lack. The reviews are particularly varied – you'll find reviews of food and restaurants right next to Amy's verdicts on food magazines, cookbooks and more.

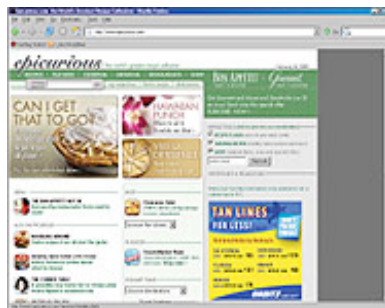
The sidebar has drop-down menus leading to all of Amy's recipes and food tips, as well as links to other great food sites. All entries are also spiced up by the presence of colour pictures, useful links and commenting through pop-up boxes. The recipes are in Imperial measurements, but this shouldn't hurt as long as you have a conversion website (like the one in BBC Food) on call.

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Epicurious

This site makes the not-so humble boast of being “the world’s greatest recipe collection,” and what it promises, it delivers in droves. From Black Pearl Layer Cake to Grilled Fontina with Artichokes and Mushrooms, there are over 1,300 mouth-watering recipes categorised by main ingredient, preparation method, cuisine, special occasion, course and even special considerations like Low Fat, Meatless, Kid-Friendly and Wine Pairing.

It's more than recipes, though: The Features section has interviews and recipes from worldclass chefs, a nice cookbook review section and articles from Bon Appétit and Gourmet magazine. Then there's sections dedicated to Cooking, Drinking and Restaurants. Registration nets you some nice benefits: free pdf downloads, the ability to save recipes to your own personal Recipe Box, and reviewing recipes.



Allrecipes

Another community site with humble origins, Allrecipes started as a cookie recipe collection called cookierecipe.com in 1997, but has expanded to become one of the most complete recipe communities on



the Internet. The emphasis here is on the home cook community, which submits and tests the various recipes in the database – over 25,000 recipes, in all. Each recipe is listed Amazon.com-style, complete with reviews submitted by users, and even ratings for each review by the site's readers. As the site's motto goes, "Real Recipes for Real People."

Best of all are the built-in tools to automatically convert ingredient lists from Imperial to metric measurements, and to adjust quantities for larger or smaller servings. The site has no end of ways to organise recipes: Top 10 lists, Dinner in an Instant, Meal of the Day and Recipe Roulette.