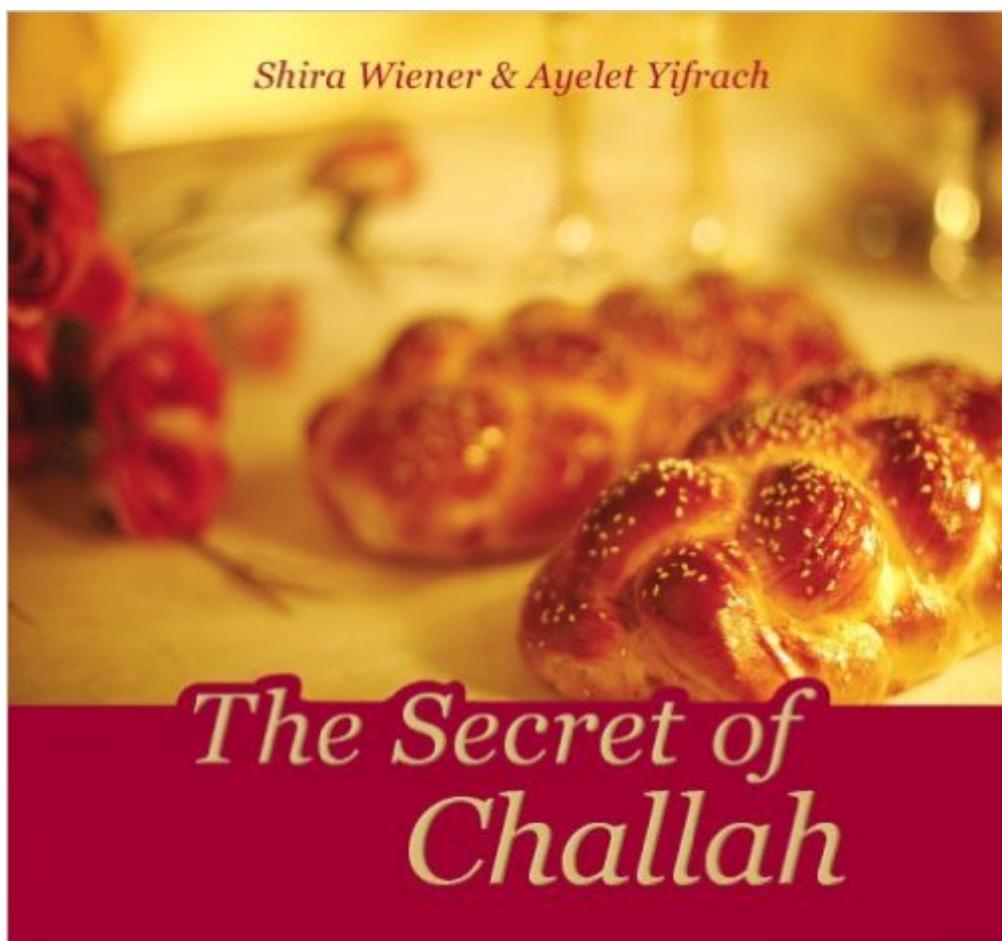


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The Secret Of Challah



Synopsis

Ah, the sweet taste of Shabbat challah... There's something about the smell of freshly baked challah and its wonderful flavor that brings joy to the Shabbat atmosphere. Baking your own challah seems like a difficult and complex process that requires great effort, experience, and special talent. In *The Secret of Challah*, with its clear, step-by-step instructions to making beautiful, delicious challah, you'll find that challah baking is both accessible and fun. In *The Secret of Challah*, you will find: Proven and tested challah and bread recipes- The Art of Braiding a section devoted to teaching you how to shape your own challah and bread, including the traditional six-strand braided challah and the festive rose-shaped challah The deep meaning behind the mitzvah of hafrashat challah, which will give your challah baking a new dimension of holiness * A clear explanation of the practical laws of this mitzvah the unique domain of the Jewish woman Experience the sweet taste of Shabbat with *The Secret of Challah* the taste of Shabbat challah. Feed your mind, soul, and family with a cookbook devoted entirely to the mitzvah of baking challah. A chapter on the spiritual side of this essential mitzvah and a step-by-step guide to the details and devotions of separating dough make this beautiful book much more than a collection of recipes. Gorgeous photographs complement the wealth of baking tips, explanation of challah customs, techniques for fancy braiding, and how-to's for unusual shapes for holidays and special occasions. Recipes cover basics like healthy whole wheat, sweet Shabbat, and everyday bread to exotics like egg-free, date-studded and zatar-spiced varieties. *The Secret of Challah* brings both grandeur and practicality to the mitzvah of challah.

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Customer Reviews

First the good news: The information in this book is excellent. The author does a good job describing the cultural and religious importance of challah along with various rituals, customs, and prayers associated with the bread. This information is worth the price of the book if you really want to learn a lot about the importance and uses of challah. Bad News: The recipes are not reliable. First, 15 cups of whole wheat flour with out any added white flour (for the Whole Wheat Challah recipe) does not yield a 'light, airy' challah. Other recipes only call for 1 hour and 40 minutes TOTAL rising time (between the first and second rises). Generally bread that rises that fast has a rather insipid taste. Furthermore, for bakers interested in accurate, consistent results, it would have been helpful for the author to include the weight of the ingredients instead of just the volume. There is a lot of room for inaccurate results when you are measuring out 15 cups of flour. Summary: Good info, bad recipes. Maggie Glezer's *a Blessing of Bread* has many reliable, delicious challah recipes for novice and advanced bakers alike. If you are new to challah-making (or bread-making in general), it would be a good idea to invest in a book with more reliable recipes so you can experience success in the kitchen.

I love this book. I love that it talks about everything having to do with the mitzvah of baking challah from its roots to the brachot to the techniques. I love the different recipe options, the colorful photos, the guides on how to make different shapes. My girls love using this book as well b/c of all the varieties to choose from. We try different recipes and see which ones are preferred by family and friends. I will be purchasing one for my daughter who is getting married. Every woman should try to fulfill the mitzvah of baking challah at some point and this book gives helpful hints at how to make it work. Baking challah is such a fulfilling mitzvah and this book is really inspirational.

I love this book! The book has a wealth of information, a lovely format, and the recipes are wonderful. Among the information it contains are the laws and reasons for separating challah (as well as extra traditional blessings), a section on braiding challah and various traditional (and some not so common) shapes and the reasons behind them, etc. etc. etc. I've tried several different ones to rave reviews from family and friends. I have the original Hebrew version, but have given the English version as gifts for brides, friends, etc. I warmly recommend it.

The book is extraordinary in the way the authors combine the spiritual with the practical, elevating challah baking to a "divine experience". The book includes a chapter explaining the mitzvah of separating the challah and wonderful illustrations to create specialty shapes like blossoms, five

rings, chamsah, grapes and Star of David as well as illustrations on the art of braiding from one to six strands. This has been a perfect engagement or wedding gift and a great choice for Chanukah. I read a previous review that talked about weights and measurements which I did not understand as the English version is in cups by volume but also includes a conversion table. The recipes are great and include even a rye-oatmeal challah! What more could you want!

I love the spiritual meanings behind the whole process of it, as well as understanding some of the culture more. I'm taking my time reading it and really enjoying it, so I haven't even made it to the recipes or making it yet, lol :-)

Great book! In a very clear and uncomplicated manner, the authors present the background to Challah baking, its laws and the separating of priestly gifts. There are dozens of clear and easy to follow recipes. and its a very pleasant read. Priced reasonably too.

This book is an excellent resource for those who want to learn more about the mitzvah of making challah. The layout and content are easy to follow. The recipes are diverse in terms of sweet and fluffy vs. dense and healthy. The book is useful for new challah bakers as well as those more seasoned.

More than a cookbook- very informative and an interesting read- the recipes are good- I especially like the braiding section. Highly Recommended!

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