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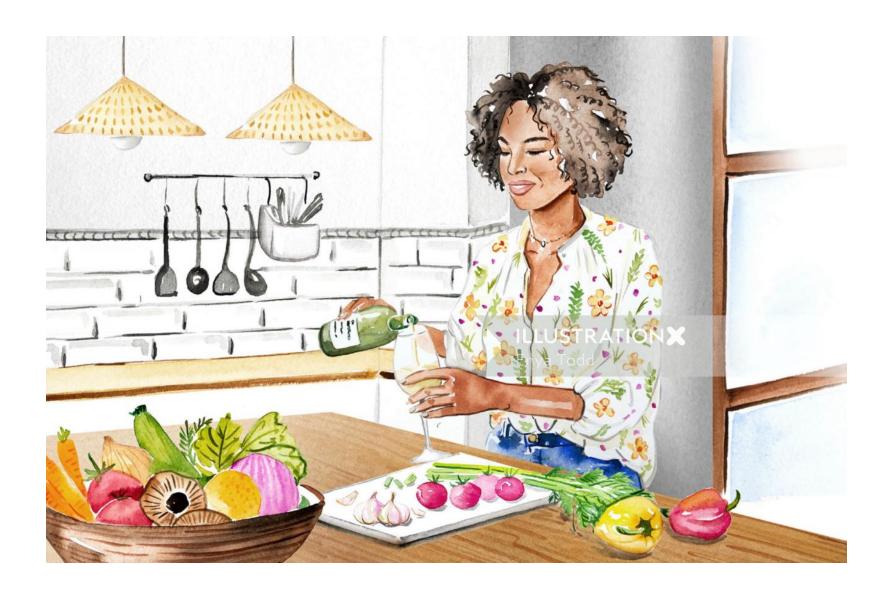








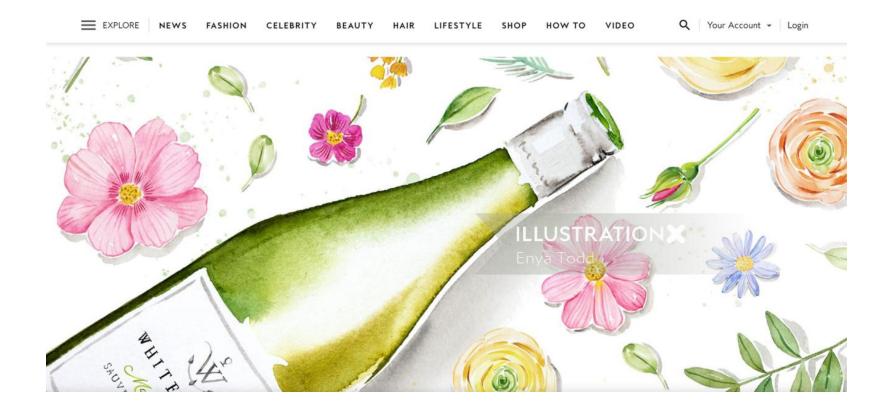


















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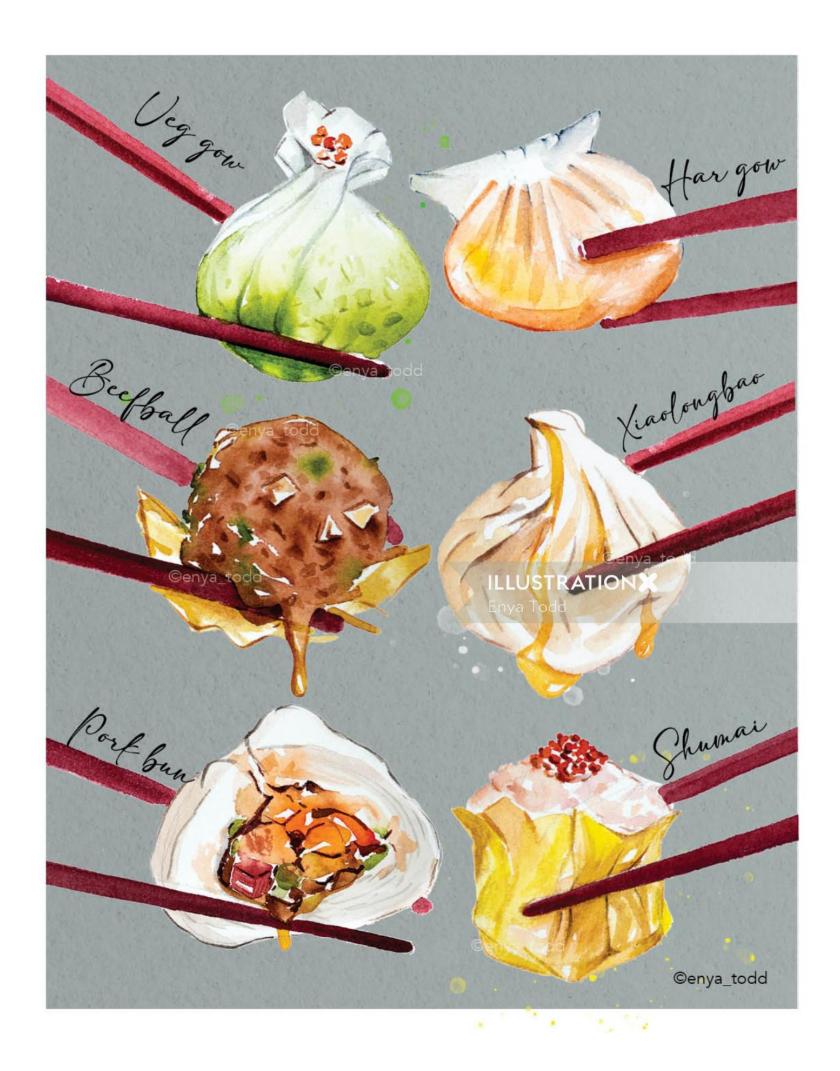


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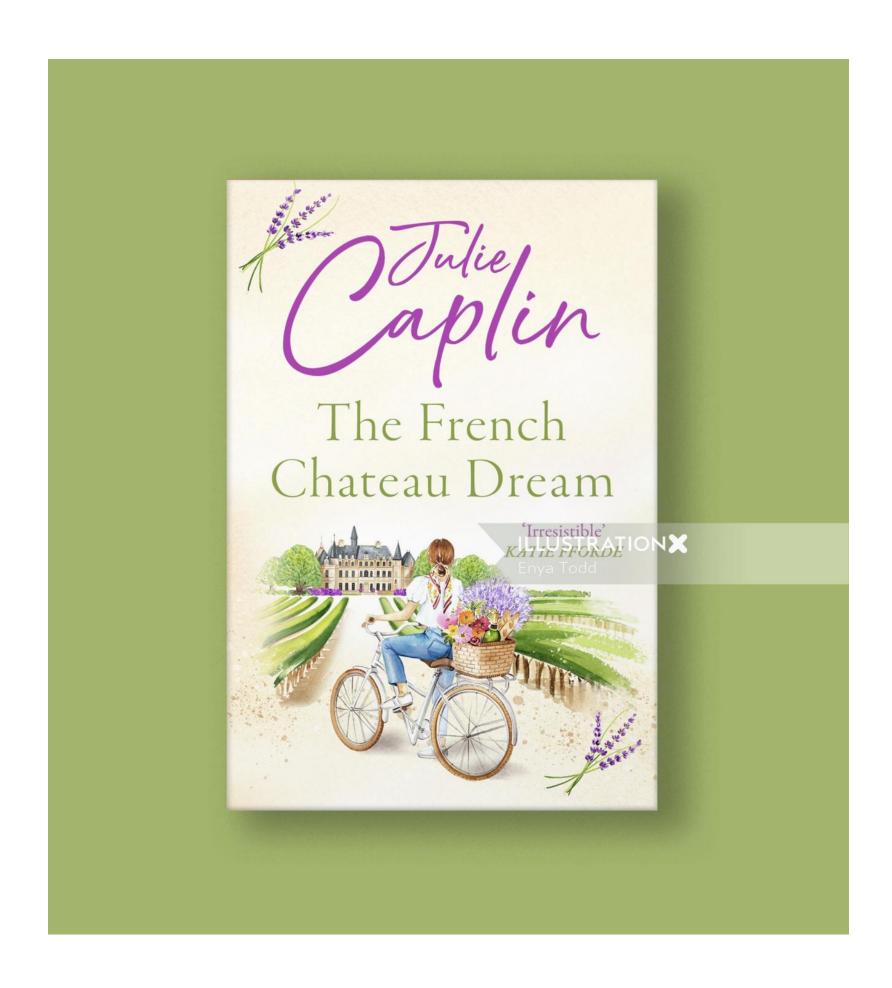
















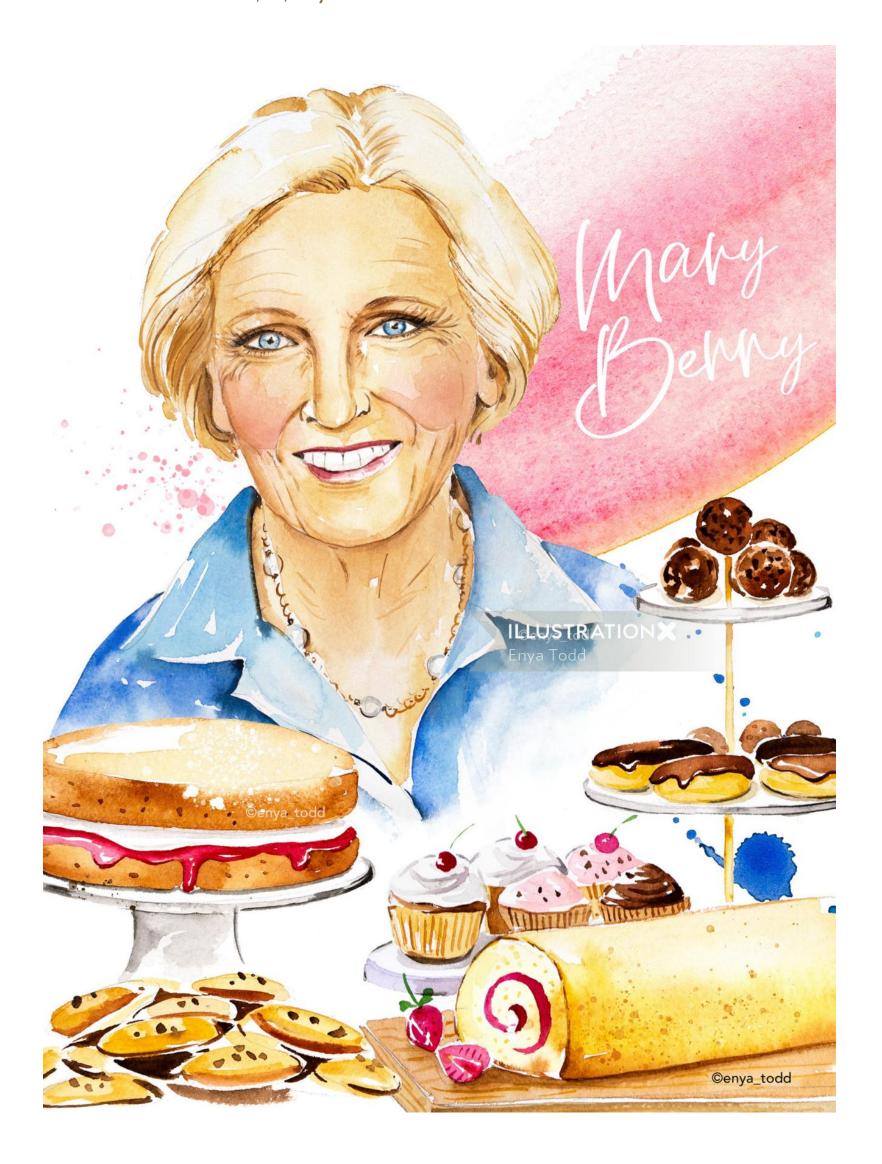




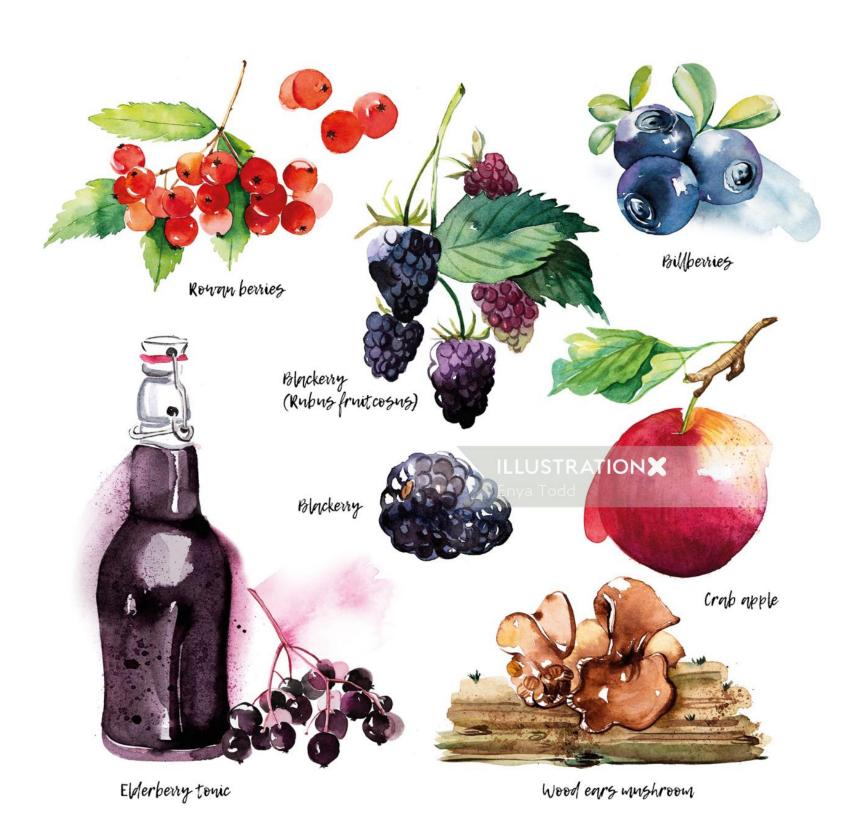






















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A rice salad can result in obsession

BY OLGA MASSOV

The first time I had Lao food, I fell hard for a dish I then obsessed over for years. I'd think about it on the subway, while cooking dinner, folding laundry, during a run. I'd recall its flavors and textures; how its fragrance hit my nostrils; the delightful contrast of crunchy and soft textures. It was a dish I had wanted to learn to make for years but was too intimidated to try. It felt overwhelming in its lack of familiarity, and it looked like it would take all day to make. Boy, was I wrong.

The dish in question is naem khao: crispy coconut rice with som mu (a type of Lao sausage), herbs and aromatics, served with lettuce leaves for wrapping. I first tried it in 2013, when my friend, chef Soulayphet Schwader, opened his restaurant, Khe-Yo, in Lower Manhattan and invited my hushand and me to be his guests. We had never had Lao food, so once we settled in our seats, we selected a few tasty-sounding but unfamiliar dishes.

Our naem khao arrived in a bowi. Fried balls of jasmine rice, fragrant with occount nestled

Our naem khao arrived in bowl: Fried balls of jasmier rice, fragrant with coconut nestled against aromatic sausage, lettuce leaves, tender sprigs of cilantro, glassine fried makrut lime leaves and bird's eye chile. Next to the salad was a small bowl of honey sambal. Our server recommended we smash the rice balls, sausage, herbs, lime leaves and chile into one another, mixing every—
SEE NAEM KHAO ON E3

The where, when and why of braise, broil or fry

There are a lot of cooking techniques to master. But you can do all of them.

BY BECKY KRYSTAL

It's easy to talk about cooking as a monolithic concept, but there's so much more nuance to it. You may use one method in a recipe, or multiple. You could have one completely mastered and be terrified of another (hello, me not that long ago, afraid of frying).

I like this simple definition of cooking, beyond the broader notion of just any kind of food prep, from "The Science of Good Food," by David Joachim and Andrew Schloss with A. Philip Handel: "Cooking is a process of heat transfer from a heat source to food to transform the food into something different."

It's also a matter of balance. "No matter what you're cooking, or what heat source you're using, the aim is always the same: apply heat at the right level, and $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1$ at the right rate, so that the surface of the food and its interior are done cooking at the same time," says Samin Nosrat in "Salt Fat Acid Heat: Mastering the Elements

So let's take a little deeper dive into your options, starting with two common stove-top methods and continuing with strategies that take advantage of water and the oven. Recipes listed at the end of each section are available in our Recipe

Oil can be better than butter in baking

BY JESSIE SHEEHAN
Special to The Washington Post

Special to The Washington Post

I am the queen of the baking shortcut, for despite my deep and powerful love of all things sweet, I'm impatient and awfully fond of instant gratification. I gravitate toward recipes with short ingredient lists and instructions that don't require any heavy equipment (stand mixer, I'm looking at you) and can be assembled using only one or two bowls.

So, although I enjoy the texture achieved by creaming together butter and sugar in a mixer for a furfly yellow cake or a chewy sugar cookie, what I really dig is a baked good that calls for oil rather than butter.

Baking with oil not orny requires less work, and results in fewer dirty dishes, than butter, but it also produces tender, moist baked goods that get better with age and boast an impressively long shelf-life. As such, I not only search out baking recipes calling for oil, but when developing such

for oil, but when developing such recipes myself, which I do for a living, I try to create those that are oil-based.

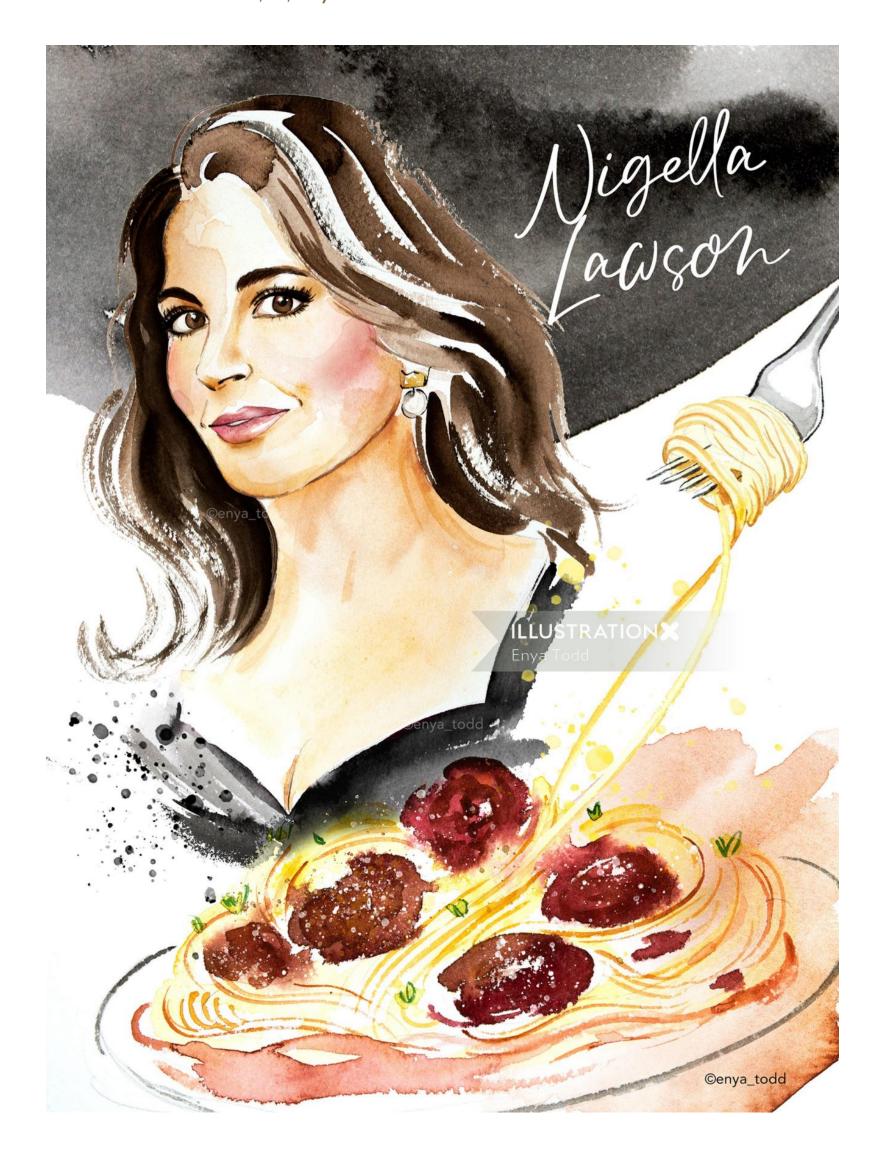
Here is a breakdown of some of

the impressive attributes of an oil-based baked good, as well as tips for substituting oil for butter in your favorite baking recipes.

SEE NO BUTTER ON E6

RECIPES ON E6 Hazelnut Chiffon Cake With Nutella Ganache • Cacio e Pepe Olive Oil Popovers



























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