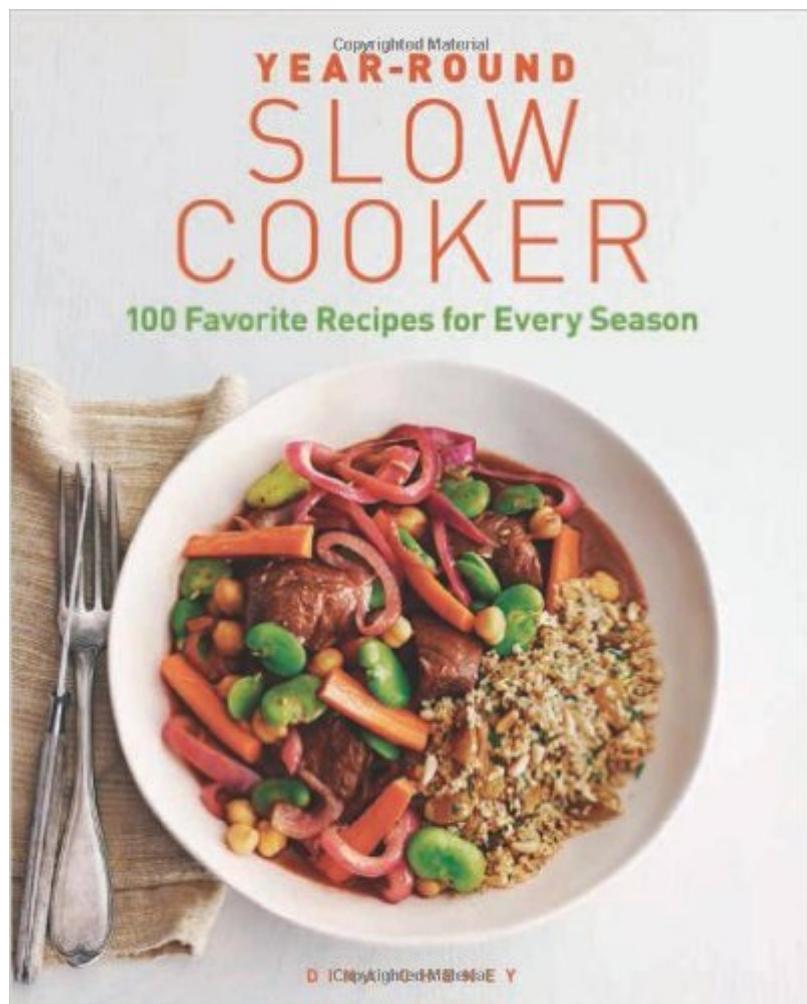


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# Year-Round Slow Cooker: 100 Favorite Recipes For Every Season



## Synopsis

Slow cookers are popular for good reason: They're the ultimate kitchen problem solvers. If you're watching your budget, they're well worth the \$30 they cost since they can turn the cheapest cuts of meat into unctuous, mouth-watering results worthy of a five-star restaurant. Slow cookers also do the hard work, cooking for hours while you're out of the house only to come home to a meal just about ready to eat. And since slow cookers keep food warm, they allow different family members to eat at different times: a practical option in a world of staggered schedules. Yet, slow cookers have an image problem. Most home cooks use them for cold weather meals only, while others think slow cookers can only produce food that's mushy, bland, and watery or rely solely on shortcut ingredients like spice packets, bouillon cubes, and bottled sauces. No longer does this must-have kitchen tool deserve to be stored away when spring months hit. In *Year-Round Slow Cooker*, home cooks will find 100 delicious, modern, practical slow cooker recipes featuring seasonal produce. Recipes speak to the home cook whose palate is more sophisticated and who wants to incorporate seasonal produce into all of her meals. Organized by season, *Year-Round Slow Cooker* features notes about the featured seasonal ingredients as well as invaluable tips throughout to help cooks maximize the power of the slow cooker.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book hoping to find some recipes that I could throw together in the morning, go to work and come home 8 hours later and eat. Most of the recipes are shorter than 8 hours, and I have only

worked my way through a few of them, but so far I am really enjoying the author's culinary style. I like it when a cookbook gives you a whole new way of cooking. Dina Cheney is high on flavor, and simple to follow. I am feeling quite inspired by this book and enjoying it a lot.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley months ago but have not reviewed until now for reasons that will soon become apparent. This is a beautiful book and I love that it uses seasonal ingredients. The recipes are divided by season so I went straight to "Winter" but I did not find any of the winter recipes appealing. They all incorporated some sort of fruit, usually citrus. I love fruit. In the summer, that is what most of my diet consists of. But I don't like it cooked into every meal. I understand that may be part of the "seasonal" aspect of the cookbook, but it didn't sound appealing to me. So I waited for spring. In the meantime, I began reading through the text of the book. The list of "power tools" and "power ingredients" were helpful when shopping. Throughout, there are helpful hints and tips, regardless of whether you are using a slow cooker or not. And even some shortcuts if you're trying to save money. But it was soon clear to me that this was not the book for me. I have a toddler and an infant at home. My hands are full and I can sometimes be found cooking with one child in my arms. I also work full time. Unfortunately, many, if not most, of these recipes are not ones that you can leave in the slow cooker for 8-10 hours. This is not a "set it and forget it" type of cookbook. The author explains: "I quickly realized that such a goal was not attainable if I wanted to create dishes that were delicious and showcased seasonal ingredients." Fish cooks in about an hour. Desserts from 2-4. Chicken in 4. And she warns not to leave food on the warm setting for more than 2 hours. Also, some of the preps take 15 minutes. Others take up to an hour or more. I understand what Dina Cheney is trying to do. I think if you have the time, this would be a lovely cookbook. But for a full time working mother of two young children, it is one I have not been able to use. I don't think this is clear when reading the description of the book so I hope my review helps make an educated purchase.

I love to eat locally grown, seasonal foods, so this book seemed like a good addition to my library. I'm an enthusiastic cook, and don't mind a few extra steps in the morning (browning meat and onions) or finishing time in the evening (adding tender vegetables to preserve their flavors, or cooking up grains separately) -- I do many of these things even when the slow-cooker recipe I'm using doesn't call for them. But when I use a slow cooker cookbook, I do expect that most of the recipes will be able to cook unattended for at least 6-8 hours. The author tells us in the foreword that she doesn't think chicken can handle long cooking times, and that her recipes are, therefore,

unapologetically shorter than many you see. Too bad we're not all work-from-home writers, I guess. My other gripe about this book is that many of the recipes have some sort of sweet or fruity element to it, sometimes more than one (Apricot Chicken AND Carrots? Short Ribs with Hoisin Sauce AND Tangerines? Yuck.). I'm not a big fan of fruit in savory dishes, so this means that a large number of the recipes are unworkable for me.

In this quick stirring world everyone now desires everything in a flash, though life is easy with all the mac & cheese and preserved provisions the whole healthiness and aroma of a tempting platter will always remain our first and foremost pick. *Year-Round Slow Cooker: 100 Favorite Recipes for Every Season* by Dina Cheney brings you an old yet planned way of cooking thus will help you in both of the departments of health and time. It is the most accurate and timed recipe book I have ever read. Recipe collection is divided into four seasons (winter, summer, spring and fall). Each season has its own variety of food and most of all it is according to the season's wish. Chef has decided for you the ingredients and their exact quantity, serving capacity, tools to be used, time to be consumed and a final outcome in the form of a beautiful photograph. The pictures are as mouth watering and glazed as it could get thanks to the photographer Andrew Hugh Purcell. Main theme of the book is the time of cooking, as it is slow cooking so you don't need to cling to the pot and see how the dish turns out. Chef has made life easy for you by giving exact time on which your dish be ready and meanwhile you can do whatever work you want. There are many tips and tricks popping up during the course of the book; also the advantage of many not very common veggies is a plus. Recipe origin varies from everywhere in the world. Must recommend this book to every one and no one in particular.

Not disappointed. So many slow cooker cookbooks include mostly soups and a handful of unappealing casserole-type recipes. Not this one. Some of these recipes may require a little more preparation than other slow cooker recipes, but it's worth it. Plus, Cheney provides hints on getting the most flavor from your crock pot meals.

If you thought that your slow cooker was only for winter use, you have another thought coming. This excellent cookbook will serve deliciously throughout the year. The layout of the book is well done - recipes are easy to follow and, although some require a little bit of work, the results are fantastic. The book is laid out by season but when you live in Florida, you can just ignore that and cook away! They cover all types of meals (including desserts), from around the globe.

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