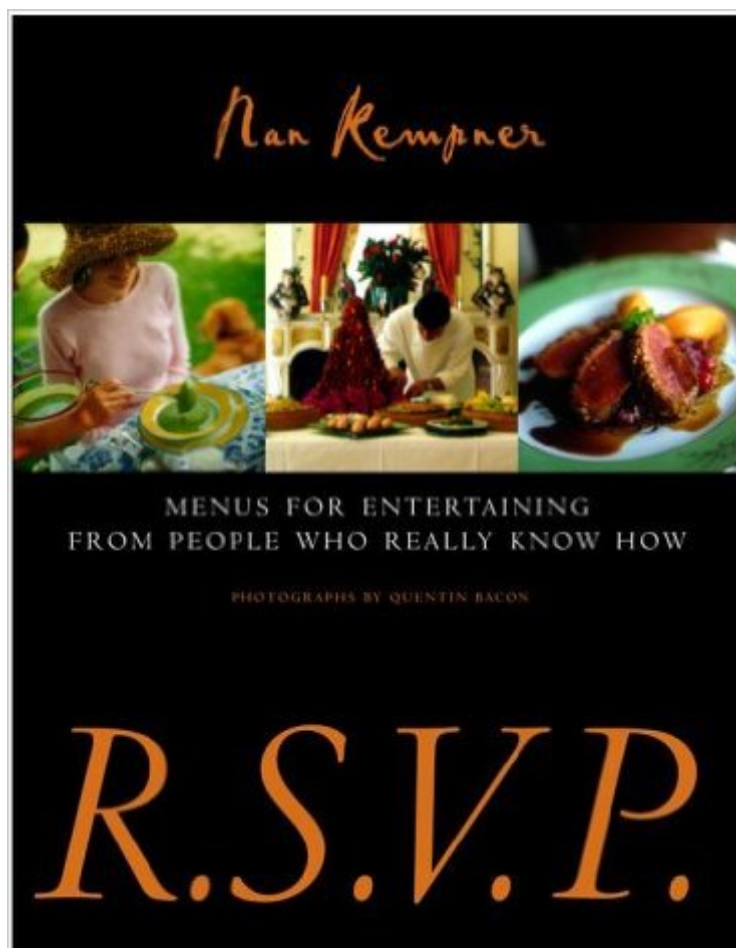


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R.S.V.P.: Menus For Entertaining From People Who Really Know How



Synopsis

What defines a truly great host? Is it the quality of her surroundings, her china and linens, the savory surprises at her table, the diversity of the people she gathers around her, or simply her ability to put guests at ease? As Nan Kempner shows in *R.S.V.P.*, it is all this and much more. New York hostess extraordinaire and inveterate guest of some of the world's most accomplished, Nan Kempner offers a tantalizing glimpse into the homes -- and entertaining philosophies -- of more than two dozen of her favorite hosts and hostesses. With twenty complete menus, *R.S.V.P.* divulges tried-and-true strategies for a large range of events, from a dockside breakfast to a gala sit-down dinner. Here is a casual city luncheon hosted by Crown Princess Pavlos of Greece; cocktails on the Grand Canal in Venice with Larry Lovett; Anne Bass's fall-inspired country menu; the raucous Texas-sized cookout served by Lynn Wyatt; and a full-scale boar hunt on the Loire Valley estate of Count Hubert and Countess Isabelle d'Ornano. For each event, Nan recollects the mood at the table and the individual elements that made each gathering so exceptional. She has also convinced her friends to share their most closely guarded recipes, most of them simple to replicate and all certain to please even the most discerning partygoer. *R.S.V.P.* also gives an enticing tour of some of the world's most brilliant houses, with an insider's view of Oscar and Annette de la Renta's Santo Domingo villa; Ross Bleckner's art-filled New York City loft; and designer Valentino's sumptuously appointed yacht. Stunning color photographs showcase each house and vividly re-create these events.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had been avidly awaiting the release of this book. But I came away from it uninterested and

unmoved. I had expected, based on the description, something that was part "Lifestyle's of the Rich and Famous" and part mealplanner with recipes. The latter was as promised in every sense. The former consisted of an enormous display of what I can only describe as a painfully awkward attempt to portray a glamour and beauty that had faded and an importance by association rather than accomplishment. I would think that such a renowned hostess could have supplied a far more impressive narration. To buy or not to buy? Buy. The meals look scrumptious and the recipes are items that look gourmet and taste gourmet but can be replicated with skills of an amateur. (Like me.)

If you are looking for glamorous photos and chic descriptions of the 'swells' of society, this is it. It's a fun and voyeuristic way to see how New York society entertains each other. The recipes are not too difficult and several I have tried were delicious.

I really liked this book and enjoyed very much reading it. The recipes are quite easy to prepare and taste very good. I find some of the other reviews very inappropriate and not quite fair. So she said something in an interview about fat people - maybe it was quoted out of context - whatever, it has nothing to do with the book she wrote. This book is about people from the "society" who entertain and that's what you get. The photos are excellent and I like the way Nan describes her friends and the places they live in. Why not just enjoy it and imagine how it would be to live in beautiful houses and give such lovely luncheons and parties...

Ya gotta love the pictures, try some of the recipes, and laugh a bunch. It's a nice cook book if you are into cookbooks, but mostly get it for the fun of it.

Beautifully photographed and a great idea, this book could have been much better if Nan used a better writer. I laughed so much reading the titles of the photos--they are hilarious! I thought she would be much more original and sophisticated than that. However it contains some good recipes.

This book is rather fun with beautiful photography and interesting recipes - which are not too difficult. I believe this is a delightful book - with a view into how others live their lives! Menus are pleasant and again not too complicated.

I'm sorry I ordered the book, it is very outdated. I need to stay off the Internet late at night when I am tired, I do foolish things.

It was a gift for my wife and she loved it. We like to entertain and the book has many good ideas.

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