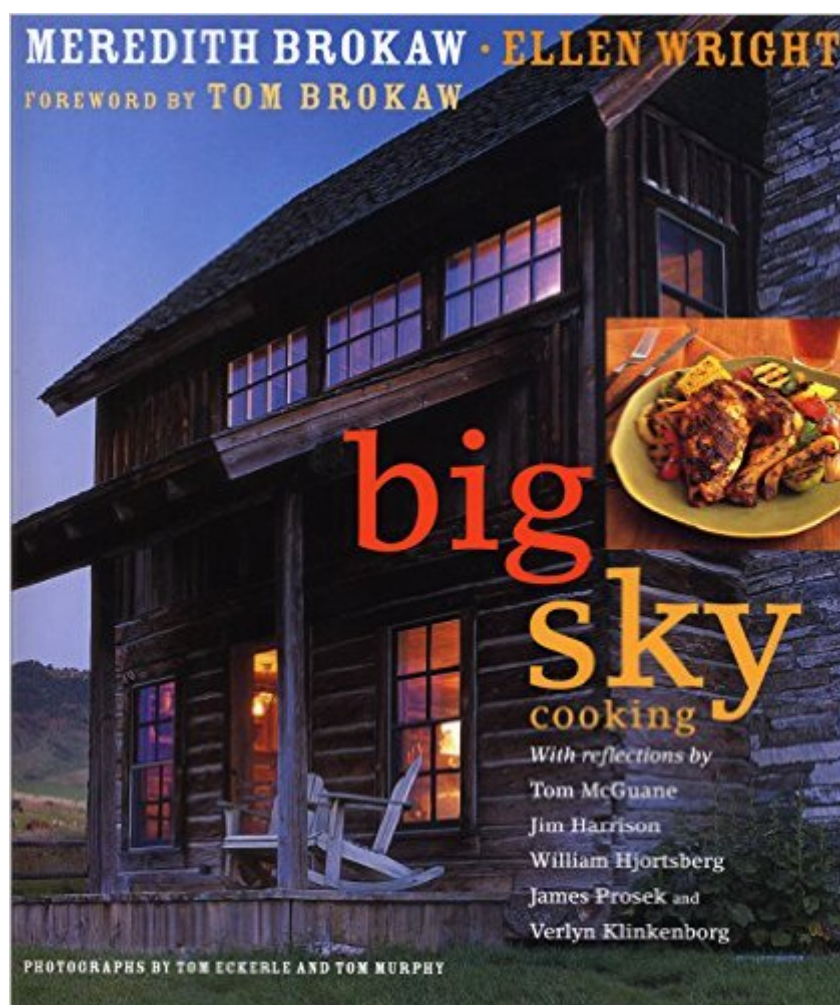


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# Big Sky Cooking



## Synopsis

The West has a permanent pull on the American psyche. It's the place where the prairie meets the mountains, the mountains meet the sky, and the sky goes on forever. It's the home of our legends, our heroes and outlaws, our romanticized past. Meredith and Tom Brokaw could feel the attraction all the way from their home in New York City. Native South Dakotans, they had settled into a frenetic Manhattan lifestyle, tempered by frequent visits to Montana, until Tom could no longer resist. He convinced Meredith to join him in buying a ranch north of Yellowstone. Meredith, in turn, convinced her friend, passionate cook Ellen Wright, to come and discover for herself the bounty of the region—its trout, bison, and elk; locally raised poultry; native fruits and vegetables. The result is *Big Sky Cooking*, a personal story of this Montana experience told through delicious recipes and menus, charming reflections, and glorious color photographs. Nearly one hundred recipes, from new dishes to family standbys to reinterpreted classics, are organized into twenty menus that let you dip into the western lifestyle for any occasion: from a sunrise breakfast with eggs straight from the chicken coop to a picnic on the fly, from a rodeo dinner to a moonlight supper under the stars. The food is straightforward, unpretentious fare, as honest as Montanans and guaranteed to make every hour of the day an opportunity to enjoy the good life. Along the way you'll be introduced to the region's charms: its slow rhythms, its work ethic, the influences of the ancient people and European settlers who formed the present-day state, the "neighbors" who live two hours away, the glow at dusk that's so extraordinary it has its own name.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I love the cookbook. Unfortunately, it is ruined by faulty editing of too many of the receipts. For example, ONE CUP of minced garlic in 3.5 cups of chimicurri sauce? FOUR POUNDS of beets for a soup this supposed to serve 6-8? 3.5 TEASPOONS of baking soda for parmesan pan biscuits that makes 12 biscuits.

Ellen Wright has done it again. This time, with Meredith Brokaw. And the two have combined to put together a wonderful array of recipes that are easy to follow and wonderful to serve to guests. Often at my dinner parties I refer to Ellen Wright's previous books. But now Big Sky opens a new door to cooking and presents inviting and simple recipes that will have your guests in awe of your skills. Even for simple family meals, you will find yourself referring to Big Sky time and time again... I don't know what I did before Big Sky was published. This is a five-star cookbook that everyone should have in their home.

Those who have followed Ellen Wright's colorful advice about entertaining back East should surely be eager to gobble up her third hardcover offering ... this one co-authored with Tom Brokaw's wife Meredith ... about how to really do it right out West. Given her eye for great photography and scenery that sets the mood for serious as well as whimsical meals, Ellen's "Big Sky Cooking" has already earned a place on my kitchen bookshelf as a combination coffee table travelogue and special occasion reference book. I'm looking forward to using it during lakeside entertainment at our cabin this summer.

The recipes are great but the text articles about life in Paradise Valley make this book truly wonderful! My only criticism (and I'm also writing the publisher) is that the editing needs work. Several typos keep this from being a 5 star book.

The authors experienced a frantic Manhattan lifestyle tempered by visits to Montana until they bought a ranch and become involved in the food traditions of the area. When passionate cook Ellen Wright discovered the area's blend of fresh game and ingredients, she joined them and BIG SKY COOKING WITH REFLECTIONS features a fine blend of full-page color photos, recipes, and dishes steeped in Montana ingredients. Sesame-Soy Venison Chops, Elk Pepper Steaks, and Bison Osso Busco aren't dishes you'll find many other places, either. Diane C. Donovan California Bookwatch

What a beautiful Cookbook plus wonderful stories about the beautiful state of Montana. What a thrill to find this book. Its more than a cookbook it has some wonderful stories plus beautiful photography. The cookbook by Tom Brokaw's wife Meredith. What a great purchase.

I absolutely love this cookbook and, although I do happen to be lucky enough to live in Big Sky Country, I'd love this cookbook even if I was forced to live in another (not nearly as cool) American state. In reality this book is really many books in one: Brokaw family album, coffee-table-quality scenery, American West living guide and it's jam-packed with lots of wonderful easy-to-prepare recipes. There's some pretty darn decent writing in it to boot. A few of my favorite sections of the book: "Rhythms of the Ranch", "Time On Hold", "The Mane Event" and McGuane's "Taking Stock". Favorite recipes of mine are "Val's Cinnamon Rolls" (even my own mother was impressed that I actually used old-fashioned yeast), "Rocky Mountain Potato Salad", "Sesame-Soy Venison Chops", "Oven-Roasted Carrots, Parsnips, and Potatoes", "Marjoram Onions", "Bison Osso Buco" (although I substitute venison shanks), "Elk Pepper Steaks", "Boulder River Banked Beans", "Chipotle Chicken with Smokey Grilled Vegetables" and for dessert I prefer the "Berry Cobbler" recipe here over all others. All in all this is a wonderful book and belongs on the shelves of kitchens in the American West and Beyond!!!!

This book has great pictures and fairly good recipes. Its kind of a yuppie moves to the west and lets get into the life style of Montana book.

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