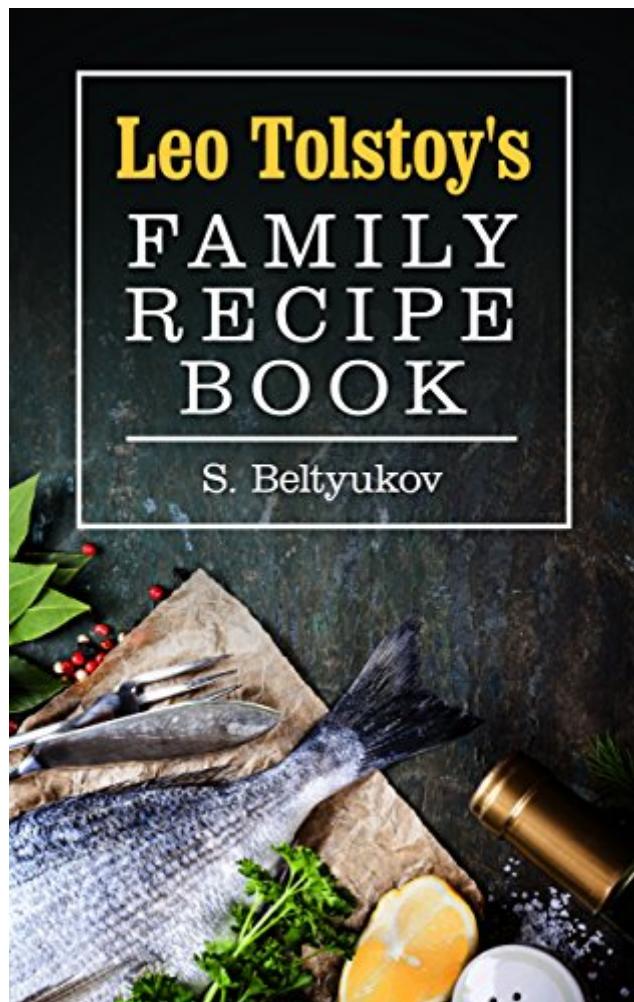


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# Leo Tolstoy's Family Recipe Book



## Synopsis

Disclaimer for VEGETARIANS: Leo Tolstoy became vegetarian when he was 50 years old. Before that his true passion was hunting. So, do not expect only vegetarian recipes. *œ* Leo Tolstoy's family recipe book • Inspiring and original French and Imperial Russian recipes that will transport your taste and imagination back to a grandiose bygone era. How to quickly gain a reputation of an exceptional housewife? Aesthetics, fancy table layout, complex dishes, rituals and entertainment... Bad news: this is not enough. Good news: there is always a secret ingredient. And it can be found in this book. This is not just a collection of Leo Tolstoy's wife's cooking recipes. This is a direct ticket to a far-away place with a wonderful atmosphere. Sophia Tolstaya created new breakfast, lunch and tea-time menus. The earl's home was frequented by guests, and Leo himself had special affinity to food in different periods of his life. All Sophia's recipes created over many years, all her little secrets were collected by her brother Stepan Bers. He reworked Sophia's diaries, her letters, her recorded conversations with the cook. In 1874, Stepan made a present to his sister and published *œ* The Cookbook • in a single copy. As the time passed, the book, initially created as a joking collection, evolved into a unique source of inspiration, a source of special knowledge. First of all, this book is about the intricacies of Russian and French cuisines. Today, these recipes cannot be recreated without special research. Not only have we lost the old ways of cooking particular products, but also lost the understanding of taste combinations. Want to hear excited voices praising your work? Open the book at page 13, take the first recipe and get going. Another unobvious effect of this book is the transformation of any dull party into your favorite scene. Tolstoy's fans know very well that food and eating in his legendary novels are treated very delicately, and the very act of eating is like a parallel storyline. You can now easily organize a dinner in Anna Karenina Kitty's style, or host a warm and hearty dinner in the Rostovs family style. It is so important that you break out from the mundane gastronomic routine, surprise your friends, give your holiday a touch or a royal feast, feel the power of love and family traditions. Why don't you do it by following the advice and recommendations of the worthiest of all wives and mothers *œ* "the great Sophia Tolstaya? Each lunch as an adventure. Each dinner as a journey. Each dish as a separate object for discussion and recollection. Let's ask again, where does the reputation of a good housewife come from? In equal proportions *œ* a local supermarket around the corner, your readiness to do something special, and this recipe collection as a gift from the great. You are offered an endless number of scenarios for dinners with family, friends, mundane or festive. All you need to do is to start cooking and enjoy the process. And even if you look at the very end of it, the story will be just as good, or even better. And that's a sign of a real masterpiece.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is not so much a useful cookbook as a glimpse into the family life and cuisine of Family Tolstoy. Not all the recipes are practical; a "kasha" (porridge or gruel-based dish) consists of massive amounts of cream clotted in the oven then mixed with cream-cooked farina and more butter. An apple pudding requires you to reconstitute and puree dried apples, then beat them with a whisk FOR AN HOUR. You might like the vegetarian beet borscht, which uses a broth of "roots and mushrooms" (I presume you could use a vegetable broth made of any root veg like celeriac and turnips and add in dried mushroom) poured over shredded beets. Yes, Tolstoy was a vegetarian, but his table had both a vegetarian and a meat dinner for guests and family who were not. It's an interesting glimpse into the life of the family of "Lev Nicolaevich." Maybe all happy families are alike, but surely, their recipe books are all different. The most interesting tidbit is not culinary: Tolstoy's wife claims that seven times as much writing DIDN'T make it into print, including into War and Peace.

The recipes were sketchy and since I'm not familiar with some of the resulting tastes I will be in

'experiment' mode. The story with the recipes is very insightful to the times and the life of Tolstoy.

Experiments here I come.

Tolstoy may have been able to cook from this, but most others can't. Many recipes are either missing ingredients lists or adequate instructions. If you're looking for a cookbook, I'd suggest looking elsewhere.

Since I'm interested in all sorts of culinary techniques, stories, recipes, etc., I found this book fascinating. The amounts of ingredients and how they were incorporated into each recipe was extremely interesting. The little side stories contributed by the family and friends only added to the pleasure of reading it. Short and sweet, I recommend it highly.

Leo Tolstoy's family recipe book that has two parts: one is the diary that goes along with the recipes that are included. What a find! What feasts they had in early 1900's. Find it fascinating about beating ingredients in one direction and the amount in some recipes-15 egg whites!

A cookbook of Tolstoy's family? I was expecting vegetarian recipes since Tolstoy was vegetarian. Much to my surprise this cookbook is loaded with body parts of dead animals. Perhaps his family ate these, but he most likely did not.

Leo Tolstoy would find this book repugnant. He was a vegetarian who was against violence to animals. "As long as there are slaughterhouses there will be battlefields."

This is not something that I ever would have even thought to look for but it came up as a recommendation and it is certainly worth the price that I paid.

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