

An Introduction to Food Blogs

Blogging about food has become a very popular hobby in the last two to three years. Food blogs cover recipes, restaurant reviews, and every other aspect of the foodie world, and are often accompanied by gorgeous food photography. It is very easy to get into the food blogging world, as all you need is access to a blogging platform (such as Blogger, Typepad or Wordpress) and a love for great food. The food bloggers represented by the sites below are just a smattering of writers from around the globe, and range from dessert specialists, to a curry aficionado, to a vegetarian with a love for all things hummus.

Becks & Posh (becksposhnosh.blogspot.com)

Following the culinary adventures of a British girl in San Francisco, Sam's blog is one of the original, and best, food blogs. Her love of restaurants led to the 2004 creation of this blog, and it has been going strong ever since. Sam initiates all kinds of food blogger challenges – online blogging events that encourage foodies to try new things, and promote a strong sense of community between the online participants.

Cream Puffs in Venice

(creampuffsinvenice.typepad.com)

If you are interested in learning the essentials of baking, or just in increasing your dessert repertoire, Ivonne's blog is a necessary stop. She chronicles her weekly baking classes at

George Brown's culinary school and chooses a different cookbook every month for a thorough exploration.

David Lebovitz (www.davidlebovitz.com)

An American chef now living in Paris, David is an expert on all things chocolate. His award-winning blog offers an entertaining view of a foodie's life in France, as well as some fantastic Q&A posts on travel, baking and getting into the restaurant business. David has published four cookbooks, and recipes from these books grace his humourously written blog posts.

The Domestic Goddess (www.domesticgoddess.ca)

Jennifer was one of the very first Canadian food bloggers. Her blog focuses on the stories and context behind her favourite recipes, giving readers insight into why cooking is so important to her. Jennifer is the founder of Sugar High Fridays, a monthly dessert blogging challenge which serves as an important inspiration point for food bloggers around the world.

28 Cooks (28cooks.blogspot.com)

Fiber's vegetarian blog is always fun to visit, even for non-vegetarians. Her well-organized recipes cover a variety of international cuisines, and are especially useful when

you're looking for healthy snacks or appetizers. Of special interest are her variations on a hummus theme – she currently has eight different recipes, ranging from Red Pepper Hummus to Moroccan Carrot Hummus.

Hooked on Heat (www.hookedonheat.com)

For something a little different, check out Meena's blog. She grew up in the Middle East and is now living in Canada. She blogs about dishes with a lot of heat and flavour, especially those with Indian influences. Her Indian Cooking 101 is the perfect guide for curry newcomers; her Ginger-Chili Shrimp is a great starter recipe.

Matt Bites (mattbites.com)

For food inspiration on a visual level, Matt's blog is hard to beat. His photos look like shots out of a professional magazine, showcasing both dishes he's made himself, or gorgeous food he's found on holiday. He offers some great tips for budding food photographers, explaining the exact steps he uses in taking his mouth-watering pictures.

Milk and Cookies (ilovemilkandcookies.blogspot.com)

This Australian food blog features drool-worthy photography and fantastic recipes for tasty sweets and a myriad of ice creams. Jen also offers a unique glimpse at a foodie's life Down Under, visiting markets, taste-testing local

specialties and reviewing the best restaurants Sydney has to offer.

Weekend Cookbook Challenge

(weekendcookbookchallenge.blogspot.com)

For those of us who have a pile of unused cookbooks languishing on a bookshelf in the basement, this blog offers a chance to dust off those recipes and try something new. A thematic challenge is issued every month, and the resulting blog posts are rounded up to share with the world. Past themes have included "Lucky Number Seven", "Food in Shades of Orange" and "Neglected Gadgets".

Other Online Food Resources

All Recipes

www.allrecipes.com

Alton Brown

www.altonbrown.com

Epicurious

www.epicurious.com

Group Recipes

www.grouprecipes.com

Jamie Oliver

www.jamieoliver.com

Nigella Lawson

www.nigella.com

Slashfood

www.slashfood.com