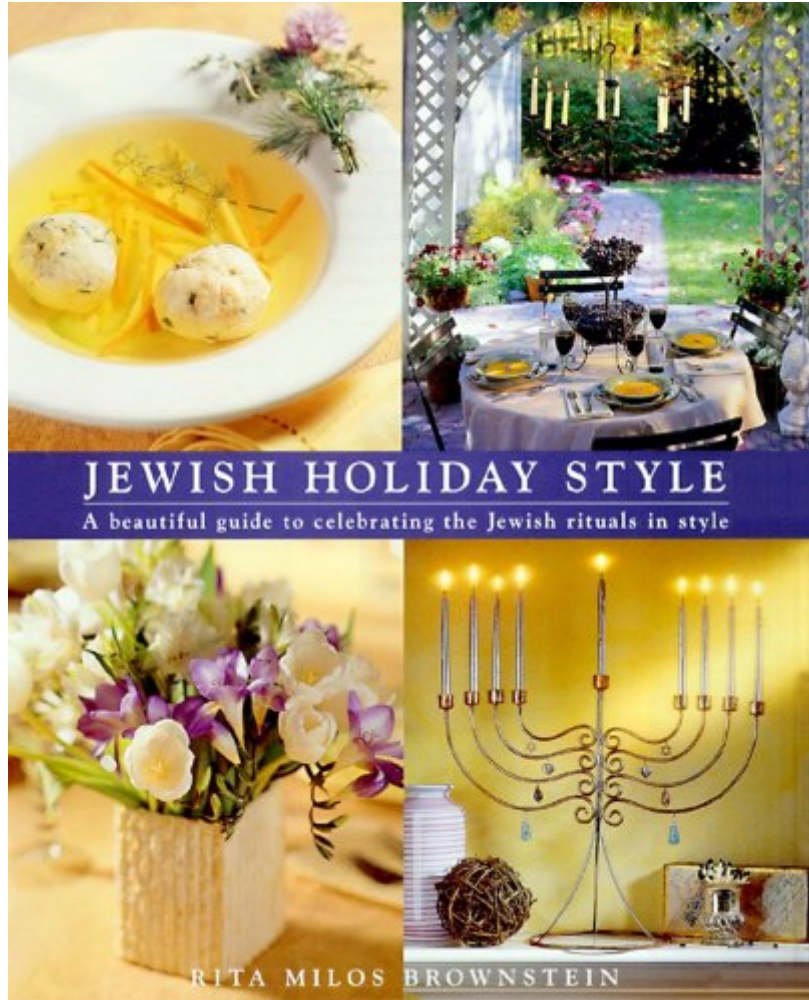


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Jewish Holiday Style: A Guide To Celebrating Jewish Rituals In Style



Synopsis

At last -- the Jewish holidays transformed into exquisite celebrations, graced with sublime chic and elegant ease for the contemporary Jewish reader. Combining the flair of Martha Stewart with the warmth and accessibility of a delightful neighbor, Rita Milos Brownstein breathes new life into traditional Jewish holiday celebrations. Entertaining in high style creates marvelous holiday memories for your family, your friends, and yourself. For each of the ten major holidays, Brownstein offers suggestions for creative projects that will bring the whole family together and mouth-watering menus that make it effortless to prepare festivities of true material and spiritual splendor. With more than 85 full-color photographs and easy-to-follow step-by-step illustrations, this captivating book will motivate you to explore your Jewish heritage and use your imagination to make it your own. Jewish Holiday Style is packed with dazzling and inspiring ideas. For Rosh Hashanah, host a honey-tasting party to celebrate the sweetness of a new year. If you love the ocean, observe Sukkot in a sukkah with a seaside motif -- even if you live in the cornfields of the Midwest. Make your own Chanukah menorahs -- try a simple cruse of oil that reflects the miracle of the oil in the Holy Temple, or an elaborate metalworked candelabra that is sure to become a family heirloom. For the Passover table, create personalized pillows for your guests, which will allow them to recline like the royalty of old while you serve a lavish yet simple-to-prepare feast. As part of this eye-opening tour through the Jewish calendar, Brownstein also highlights the historical origins and religious importance of each major holiday with a delightful essay that brings ancient rituals into the modern day. Think of the fast of Yom Kippur, for instance, as "a day spa for the soul...the too rare opportunity to get in touch with the things that really matter." Purim is "the definitive holiday of joy and merriment," commemorating a bright moment in the often somber history of the Jewish people. On Shabbat, "appreciate that you are joining the wave of Jews who are kindling their candles as the sun falls, working its way around the world." At once a handbook of creative ideas and a primer on the spiritual significance of the Jewish holidays, Jewish Holiday Style is the first lifestyle book to address these all-important rituals and ceremonies, an elegantly designed volume that blends sensational crafts and delectable cooking with the richness of Judaism's 3,300-year-old tradition. Bursting with fresh ideas and exciting new looks, here, finally, is the book you've been waiting for. Let the holiday celebrations begin!

Book Information

File Size: 8590 KB

Print Length: 144 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster (September 8, 1999)

Publication Date: September 8, 1999

Language: English

ASIN: B0030VVOI8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,347,835 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #89

inÂ Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Entertaining & Holidays > Jewish #121 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Special Diet > Kosher #298 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Seasonal

Customer Reviews

The author has done a wonderful job of bringing fresh visual and culinary interpretations of all of the Jewish festivals and holidays, beautifully demonstrated through sensitively written text and gorgeous photos. Best of all, the author has done her research and has faithfully stayed on course in respectfully explaining Jewish religious ritual. It's a wonderful resource for those who have never attempted a Purim costume or Passover meal, as well as for those who prepare Sabbath meals week after week and just want a fresh perspective.

Rita Brownstein has created a unique guide to celebrating the Jewish holidays creatively. She combines outstanding artistic and culinary talents with a deep appreciation and knowledge of Jewish customs and laws. The result is a new and exciting approach to the annual cycle of traditional Jewish observance. This is not just a cookbook or only a home decorating book. This book will appeal to those who know the Sabbath and holiday celebrations are not just dinner parties. Beautiful decorations and holiday symbols enhance their beauty and meaning. This book is obviously a labor of love and I highly recommend it.

I bought this book for myself, and five more copies for my friends and family. This passover I am planning on making three matzah-cover vases for my pesach table, and I'm also going to have a glass-square seder plate. These stylish things are chic and inexpensive, plus they look great with

any room or setting. The book itself has more knowledge than any other style book: usually books are either one or the other. Is Ms. Brownstein planning on writing any books in the future?

It will help you style up your house on any occasion like Shabbat to Passover. It is a wonderful guide on home decorating of every Jewish holiday.

I've turned to this book again and again for Jewish holiday celebrations, and it often has lovely ideas. Just as often, some of them strike me as rather improbable and silly. On the plus side, the sukkahs she describes making are lovely interpretations of the idea, but on the minus side, trying to follow her directions to actually construct one will make you crazy. BELIEVE ME. I've used some of her ideas for Rosh Hashanah cards and been pleased with the results, but the Purim costumes and mishloach manot baskets mostly seem silly. And make your own journal for Yom Kippur? I don't know, I'm always way too busy to mess with something like that. Many of her recipes are surprisingly delicious, especially her orange-chocolate hamantaschen and the raspberry linzer-torte hamantaschen...YUM! So while it's not always consistent, I am glad to have it in my library nonetheless.

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