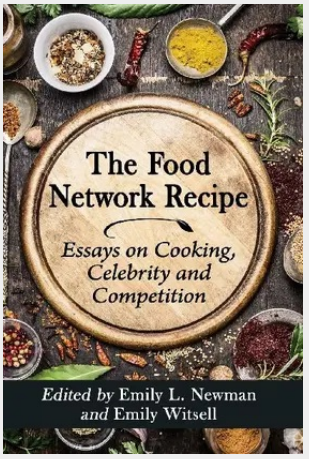
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The Food Network Recipe

Essays on Cooking, Celebrity and Competition

When the Television Food Network launched in 1993, its programming was conceived as educational: it would teach people how to cook well, with side trips into the economics of food and healthy living. Today, however, the network is primarily known for splashy celebrity chefs and spirited competition shows. This edited collection explores how the Food Network came to be known for consistently providing comforting programming that offers an escape from reality, where the storyline is just as important as the food that is being created. It dissects some of the biggest personalities that emerged from the Food Network itself, such as Guy Fieri, and offers a critical examination of a variety of chefs' feminisms and the complicated nature of success. Some writers posit that the Food Network is creating an engaging, important dialogue about modes of instruction and education, and others analyze how the Food Network presents locality and place through the sharing of food culture with the viewing public. This book will bring together these threads as it explores the rise, development, and unique adaptability of the Food Network.

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66,10 €
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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9781476679082
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-1-4766-7908-2
Verlag: McFarland
Erscheinungstermin: 07.04.2021
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2021
Produktform: Kartoniert
Gewicht: 434 g
Seiten: 264
Format (B x H): 152 x 229 mm

Kundenservice Verlag Dr. Otto Schmidt KG
Neumannstraße 10, 40235 Düsseldorf | kundenservice@otto-schmidt.de | 0221-93738-997 (Inland)