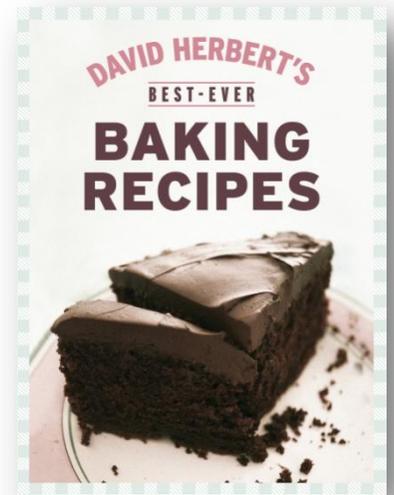


# Best-ever Baking Recipes

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## Extract



## Introduction

Who doesn't love someone who bakes a cake? I'm the most popular guy in the office when I take in homemade cake or biscuits, or muffins left over from a photo shoot. There is no better feeling than sharing something you've made yourself and seeing the pleasure it gives.

I am the son of a woman who has won prizes for her sponge cakes, so you could say baking is in my blood. For me, it is something that comes from the heart; it connects you with family and friends, as well as traditions – whether handed down, learned or new. As a child, I spent a lot of time watching my mother, two grandmothers and an uncle in their kitchens. I'm sure these experiences have rubbed off as I have always approached baking with the knowledge of how to line a cake tin, whisk egg whites, and cream butter and sugar.

I decided to write a book on baking to communicate some of that knowledge, and to share my favourite recipes and tips acquired over many years. But I wanted it to be more than simply a compilation of recipes; it is also a collection of experiences – both mine and the many friends I have in this great world of cooking and recipe writing.

Over the years I have learnt to worry less and to bake more. Funnily enough, my favourite recipes are the simplest: the carrot cake, lemon cake, all-in-one coffee and walnut cake and cheese scones are the ones I make the most, and more than once I've taken a ginger cake to a job interview (with success). But as you browse through the chapters, I hope you will agree that there is something here for everyone.

The aim of this book was to produce an easy-to-use collection of delicious recipes to both inspire novices and challenge seasoned bakers. I have included as many tips as possible and also offer helpful ideas learned while writing and testing the recipes. All of the recipes have been tested at least twice.

Baking combines many pleasures: creative pride in the making, social satisfaction in the sharing and sensual delight in the eating. I hope you have a wonderful time with this book.