

Friends at My Table

Alice Hart

Roost Books

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Alice Hart's *Friends at My Table* is another hyper-seasonal masterpiece, albeit one that offers complete menus for a LaidBack Country Wedding; Vegetarian Bridal Brunch; Beach Cricket Barbecue; An Easy, Chic Picnic; and other celebratory gatherings. Her Family-Style New Year's Eve Supper for 16 tempts with recipes for Homemade Pastrami; Cured Salmon; Luxurious Tart of Buttery Leeks, Mascarpone, and Smoked Garlic; Arugula-Celery Root Salad; Amaretti Cake with Fig Compote; and Black Forest Sundaes.

She devotes illustrated pages to cloud gazing (descriptions of ten cloud types), tidal pools (critters you might come across under the water), wild swimming (getting wet in unlikely bodies of water), and making vodka infusions (rhubarb or apricot or chili, for example), among other living-large pastimes.

Hart's London roots translate on each page—no one beats the Brits when it comes to cookbooks.

MATT SUTHERLAND (Summer 2013)

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