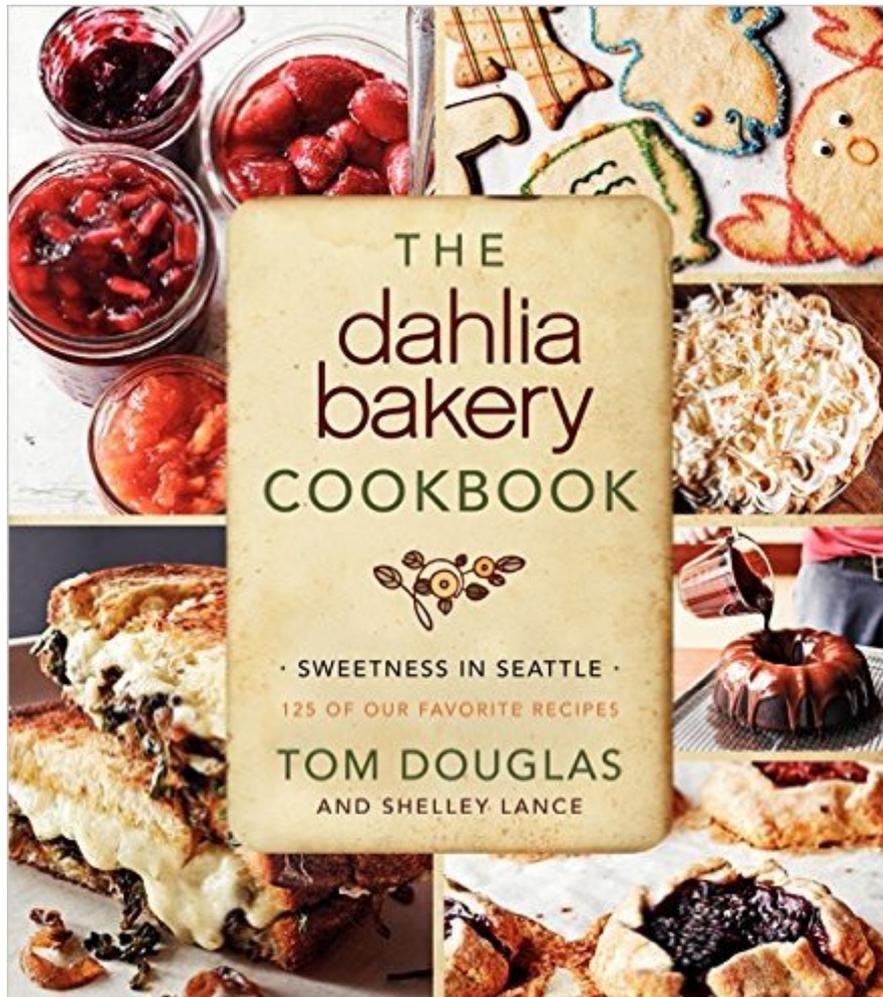


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The Dahlia Bakery Cookbook: Sweetness In Seattle



Synopsis

New York TimesÂ BestsellerWhen it comes to delectable, freshly baked cakes, pies, cookies, and muffins, nobody beats the world famous Dahlia Bakery of Seattle, Washington. Owner, Iron Chef, and James Beard Award-winning cookbook author Tom Douglas offers up the best loved recipes from this incomparable bread and pastries mecca in *The Dahlia Bakery Cookbook* featuring everything from breakfast to cookies and cake to soups and jams and more demonstrating why the West Coast wonder has long been a favorite of foodies and celebrities, like Food Network's Giada De Laurentiis and Serious Eats founder Ed Levine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A lovely book with many tasty recipes (see below for the ones tested), great photography, easy to follow instructions, good fonts with plenty of white space, ingredients listed by both volume (cups) and weight (ounces and grams), and nice variety of sweet along with some savory recipes. What I have made has been mostly wonderful as well as some good to fair and one failure. Sweet items: Out of the two biscuit recipes, serious biscuits won over malted buttermilk biscuits. Both of the pumpkin pie recipes are superb and quite different from each other. (Note: I used Prueitt's Tartine Fruit Galette pastry dough.) Definitely make both for the Thanksgiving meal along with Chang's Flour pumpkin pie. For the sugar creme pumpkin pie, I used 217 g (not 134 g) of brown sugar because that is a more common conversion for 1 cup of packed brown sugar. (Note: Shelley Lance, the co-author, wrote me that the recipe should have read 3/4 cup /150 grams of packed brown

sugar.) The blueberry muffins were fair. The rice pudding was good. The English muffins turned out well; but, as with all bread recipes, one needs to understand if extra flour is needed while still keeping a wet dough. When I made the English muffins, I needed to add more flour and the muffins still had a light and airy crumb. In reviewing the flour to water ratio, it appears that more flour is needed. The old-fashioned molasses cookies were the only failure: perhaps, because the weight of the molasses should have been about 80 g not 99 g and the flour should have been 280 g not 255 g. Savory items: Tomato soup was the best I have ever tasted, even though I forgot the garlic and substituted ajwain seed for the celery seed. Roasted carrot, leek, and goat cheese hand pies were fantastic, although substituted pastry flour and a small amount of spelt flour for whole wheat flour. Also, I would recommend making smaller pies. Now, the reason I downgraded the cookbook. The volume and weight equivalents are wildly inconsistent from recipe to recipe, e.g. devil's food cupcake lists 1 1/2 c (184 g) vs double chocolate layer cake 1 1/2 c (230 g). In this example, the gram equivalent for 1 1/2 cups flour varies by 25%. For cakes, 25% means the difference between a great crumb and a lousy crumb. Thus, I am very hesitant to make any of the cakes or cupcakes. Some small percentage point difference is inevitable if one always uses the same measuring cups and always uses the same method of volume measurement. Such large variation leads to the conclusion that different measuring methods were used. Otherwise, why such huge fluctuations in conversions? Unfortunately, this cookbook is riddled with these errors. (According to Ms. Lance, the Dahlia bakers bake by weight not volume. But for the cookbook, they developed and tested the recipes by first measuring by cups, then weighing the amount. (See p. 10) My conclusion: Because they are not accustomed to volume method, they unknowingly used different measuring methods.) I do have another of their cookbooks and have had success with both the savory and sweet recipes. And, Dahlia's butterscotch pie in Haedrich's Pie cookbook is fantastic. So, will I keep trying other recipes? You bet. But with the motto, baker beware of measurements!

Update: 12 December 2012 Made the "hot buttered rum" apple pie. The introduction was right. The 2 hours to bake the pie ensured a flaky crust. Be forewarned that it has a strong bold rum flavor. In fact, the apple flavor (I used pippin apples) seemed to get lost. My preference would be either the apple pie from Daley's In the Sweet Kitchen, or from Chang's Flour.

Update: 21 December 2012 Warning: Made the buttery cupcakes today for a friend's birthday. As always, used the weight measurements, even though the weight for the sugar seemed to be 50% more than it should have been for 1 cup (stated 300g instead of the usual 200g). Also, noticed that weight of the sugar was a lot more than the cake flour, 1.4:1. Usually the ratio is close to 1:1 for cake. Against my better judgement, made the cupcakes with the stated weights. Final result was that the cupcakes were

much, much, too sweet. Afterwards, compared the buttery layer cake recipe to the buttery cupcake recipe and noticed that in the cupcake recipe, flour and butter ingredients were 75% of cake recipe. Unfortunately, this was not true for sugar. The cake recipe called for 1 1/2 cups (10 ounces/300 grams) sugar, while the cupcake recipe called for 1 cup (10 ounces/300 grams) sugar. It seems that the sugar volume was reduced appropriately but weight was not. If the cupcake sugar were reduced to 200 grams, then the flour to sugar ratio would be close to 1:1 and would probably have tasted much better. I wished I had compared the two recipes before I made the cupcakes. This is definitely an editing mistake that should have been caught. That having been said, I would rather recommend Yellow Butter Cupcake recipe from R. Beranbaum in Heavenly Cakes for the following reasons: Beranbaum recipe is quicker to make, the cupcake has a wonderful crumb, the recipe for both volume and weight has been thoroughly tested, and the cupcake flavor is great. Update: 23 December 2012 Until there is an errata sheet, here is my recommended flour adjustment, based on a second baking experience, for the English muffin recipe, keeping all other ingredient measurements the same as stated in the cookbook. To make a wet but usable bread dough, use an additional 110-120 grams (approximately 3/4+ cup depending on your measuring cup and measuring method) of bread flour. I also substituted the cooled potato cooking water for the water, and used a dough hook instead of a paddle. And if using instant dry yeast, remember to use less than for active dry yeast. Each English muffin takes about 94 grams of dough. When covering the dough on the baking tray, I sprinkled rice flour on each muffin to ensure that the cloth would not stick to the dough. This is a common procedure in making bread. Rice flour can be found in Asian, Middle Eastern, and natural food grocery stores. The muffins can be baked on silpat. Another English muffin recipe is in Dunaway's No Need to Knead. It has been years since I have made them, but remember enjoying them. The one difference that I recall is that the muffins are not baked, but cooked on the stove.

I purchased this book mainly for the English Muffin recipe. With all the raves from the bakery clientele I knew I needed to buy this. It is the electronic version for iPad that I got and it is quite nice. I have a mountain of both books and experience in all facets of baking with bread making being my strongest point. I live by the rule that if a book exposes me to just one great recipe....it is worth every penny. The muffin recipe is suspect and the only one tried so far. (3x) The hydration level is close to 86% (not including the moisture from the other ingredients), which for those with experience know, makes for a very challenging effort. Ciabatta is around 80 and good artisan pizza dough 79 so 86 is off the charts. I know I can add more flour and tighten things up to a workable dough but if the

recipe itself is the main reason I purchased the book that really doesn't make a lot of sense. Hopefully I can still glean one perfect recipe from this book to validate the purchase to myself. Jan 1 2013 Is it really a review if people here give it 5 stars but have baked nothing from the book and its recipes???? My pie experience is as follows.....In the book it states that they use glass pie dishes for all pies except the double crust apple.....then goes on to show the coconut pie being made in a metal pie pan. The part that most buyers of the book will not see (mine is the electronic IBook version with video of actual preparation) the recipe for the coconut custard is wrong...with the coconut and butter actually being added AFTER bringing the milk (and the egg mixture) to a full boil not "almost to a boil" as the book states and not adding the coconut at the beginning. I failed to look at the video prior to making the pie and the custard failed to set completely. Did they test these recipes that were scaled down for home use...where was the editor or proof reader? If the pictures and video don't match the text...we have a problem. The muffins and the pie are two products that all the 5 star reviewers clamor about...but if in fact they don't work...what then is the value of the book beside being a nice looking coffee table decoration?

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