

Woman's Day®  
Special Interest Publications

# Spring Cooking

& entertaining

## Celebrate The Season!



### Easy Menus with Make-Ahead Tips

- Casual Dinner Parties
- A Quick Buffet
- Weekend Brunch

### Glorious Desserts

- Strawberry Treats
- Chocolate Showstoppers

### Pretty Table Settings

### With Flowers, Candles & Herbs



SAVORY  
APPETIZERS  
FOR A WEDDING  
LAWN PARTY  
(Recipes on  
Pages 94 and 95)



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## Party Planning Advice FROM THE PROS

# A Breath of Fresh Air

**F**resh air isn't associated with spring without good reason. Maybe it has something to do with wet ground or nitrogen ions from electrical storms, but whatever it is, I suddenly notice one day that the air smells different—and it's full of anticipation, energy, exuberance. While I might wish for the bounty of summer's fruits and vegetables, I'm nevertheless happy to at least have the hints of the lushness to come.



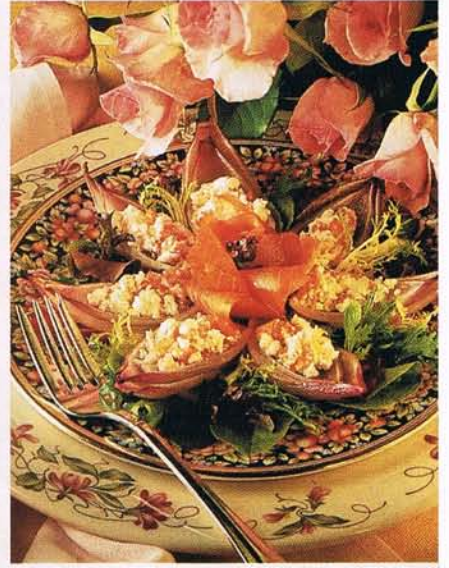
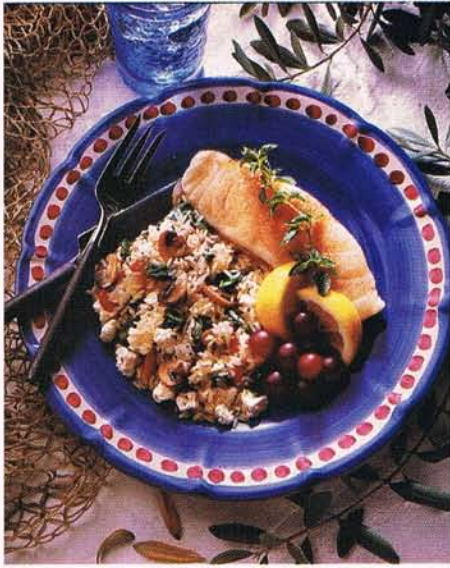
**T**his is the perfect time for crisp, clean flavors. Asparagus, artichokes and avocados are the trio that reminds us that spring is eternally green. Then, of course, there are the greens themselves—everything from beet tops to watercress. These natural suppliers of B vitamins and other essential nutrients are there for the picking. But just because it's spring, vegetables needn't be your only source of sustenance. Rice dishes and beans are great dinnertime options, especially when spring weather turns a little nippy and heartier fare feels comforting. Then there's dessert. Some people are seduced by the first strawberries of the season; others simply continue their

Valentine's Day love affair with chocolate. No matter what your preference, the effervescence of the season is bound to add to it, making absolutely everything taste much better. You'll find wonderful recipes for all these favorites in the pages that follow.

**A**nd given your new-found energy, this is also the time to start entertaining again. Celebrate spring with an elegant dinner party, an informal buffet or a casual supper. Or how about a special brunch for Mom on Mother's Day? As June rolls around, consider a lawn party, especially if there's a bride in your family. Or have a "progressive dinner" for the new family in the neighborhood. It's one of those "everyone does just a little" events that gives the whole block a chance to get into the act.

**C**oncerned about dressing up your table? Don't be. Our tabletops use seasonal ingredients—tulips and hyacinths, for example. Maybe our creations will inspire you to plant herbs for centerpieces in the months to come. A main point to take away from this issue is that your table settings can take on new life with something as simple as a big bowl of lemons and a group of candles. If any of your plans don't come out letter perfect, don't worry. Remember, spring is just the beginning.

—MARILYN MYERS  
EDITOR



# Anticipating Spring

Spring is the perfect time to try something different. And while treating your family is always enjoyable, expanding your repertoire and celebrating with friends are even more rewarding. So take a look at our glorious mix of recipes—they are expressly suited to spring's ingredients. From fresh asparagus and strawberries to that all-season favorite, chocolate, we've found wonderful ways to tempt your taste buds. Just turn the page and glory in the goodness of spring.

