

empanadas, lobster rolls, fried dumplings, baba ghanoush, pad thai, mushroom risotto, lamb chops and jerked catfish. His recipe for meatloaf is on Page E-2.

One of Samuelsson's best chapters is holiday recipes for dishes such as sesame-fried tilapia, miso-rubbed lamb with red curry broccoli, Szechuan-roasted hen and coconut rice pudding with fried bananas.

How are these holiday foods? They're the flavors of immigrant experience merging with traditions of celebrating holidays

• **"French Feasts: 299 Traditional Recipes for Family Meals and Gatherings," by Stephane Reynaud; Stewart, Tabori & Chang; \$40**

There is practically no preamble to the recipes in this encyclopedic text on French home cooking from the author of "Pork & Sons" and "Terrine." No sweet talk; Reynaud moves straight to the lovemaking. Ah, but what passion. The terrines, sausages, stews, coddled eggs, gratins, salads, braised meats and tarts of rustic Sunday suppers in France never had it so good.

Warning: Every photograph will make you want to book a flight to France to eat yourself silly. Thick layers of yellow fat atop paté; the crusty mantle of a cassoulet; the perfectly poached egg in a frisee salad; the burnt edges of fruit on an apple tart — they all conspire to make your mouth water.

To round out the French cooking, there are tips on wine, on making perfect croissants, on opening oysters, on selecting cheese.

But you'll keep coming back to the soul-stirring recipes for food you don't have to cross the pond to savor.

— The New York Times

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