



LOCAL COOKBOOKS

WORDS SARA STOVALL

You've answered calls to "eat local" and "shop local"—and with this year's release of two Sarasota-centric recipe books, now you can "cook local," too! One reads like a stirring memoir, another like an essential travel guide; the photography makes both worthy of coffee table centerpiece status. These cookbooks promise to delight Sarasota-loving epicures and home chefs. Do you know any who have been especially good this year?

Reflections & Recipes of Chef Judi

The name Judi Gallagher signifies celebrity chef, culinary columnist, PR maven, television personality, and compassionate activist.

In *Reflections & Recipes of Chef Judi*, Gallagher extends an open invitation to study the kind of life that shapes an extraordinary woman. From New England Clam Chowder to Raspberry Guava Bars, treasured recipes map a journey that's perhaps surprisingly gritty to those who know Gallagher as a beacon of pure warmth: a childhood shadowed by her father's mental illness; the sudden death of her 30-year-old sister; the sabotage of her second restaurant. Each time Gallagher arrives at a crossroads of tragedy and grief, her connection to food shows the way forward to healing and wholeness.

Gallagher's recipes flavor many victorious and bright memories, too: rising above

rampant sexism in the culinary profession; raising her son, Eric, Gallagher's "most precious creation yet"; falling for her husband, Paul—and not long after, for the city of Sarasota, where she fully ascended to star status. The one recipe conspicuously missing from this cookbook holds the secret to the oatmeal raisin cookies that lifted Gallagher back up during her darkest hour.

"I've already started book number two, but you'll never get the oatmeal raisin cookie recipe. Only my son Eric will," she vows.

Even without the miraculous oatmeal cookies, Gallagher's *Reflections & Recipes* reveals much about the qualities of an indomitable spirit, one with an enormous