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Infuse: Oil, Spirit, Water



Synopsis

From the authors of *Shake: A New Perspective on Cocktails* comes *Infuse*, a recipe book filled with fresh and flavorful oil, spirit, and water infusions. Authors Eric Prum and Josh Williams' passion for infusing oils, spirits and waters began one summer nearly a decade ago when the two first made peach-infused bourbon. They were awestruck. The seemingly simple process of adding fresh, local peaches to a Mason jar of Kentucky Bourbon, and infusing the mixture for a handful of weeks had somehow resulted in something so much greater than the sum of its parts. In *Infuse* the authors share not only their favorite infusion recipes, but also how to use them in food and cocktails, like a spicy chili oil added to a grilled pizza bianca or a hot toddy spiked with the peach bourbon that started it all years ago. With more than 50 recipes for infusing oils, spirits and waters, *Infuse* provides instructions, quick tips and plenty of inspiration for how you can make delicious infusions part of your everyday.

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Customer Reviews

Last year friends and W&P Design founders Eric Prum and Josh Williams burst onto the cookbook scene with their debut *Shake: A New Perspective on Cocktails*. Now they're back with *Infuse: Oil, Spirit, Water* the result of experimentation and brainstorming in infusing oils, spirits, and water that began over a decade ago (according to their intro) with the team's peach bourbon creation. The cookbook pairs fresh ingredients with exactly what the title describes - oils, spirits, and water - to create fun and easy blends every home cook can enjoy. From the *Olio Santo* - a Calabrian chile

infused oil they suggest using on pizza bianca - and overnight Limoncello to a refreshing post work out Pineapple Mint Coconut Water, Prum and Williams have created a collection of simply executed but brilliantly flavored infusions. What I love about this book is how uncomplicated everything is. The most frequently required tool in making the recipes is a mason jar. That's it. A mason jar! Some of the recipes require muddling, others shaking, and others simply time. It's almost ridiculous how easy the recipes in this book really are - it kind of makes you wonder how you didn't think of some of them yourself! Most of the infusions also include paired recipes for their use - a Seared Feather Steak using the Garlic Confit Oil and a Spiced Peach Bourbon Old-Fashioned using the famed Peach Bourbon, for example. Others, like the Sunday Morning Reviver and the Jalapeño Spiked Grapefruit Water, are complete as is. After trying quite a few of the recipes including the fantastic Sriracha honey butter popcorn (which I topped with smoked salt!) and the blueberry maple syrup (over oatmeal rather than pancakes), I think I'm ready to even try some of my own infusions!

Infuse wasn't what I was expecting! I picked this book, *Infuse -- oil, spirit, water* (Eric Prum and Josh Williams, 2015) because the book was listed under "Canning and Preserving". It was mislabelled. The book has nothing to do with Food Preservation, unless you're talking about someone being pickled in alcohol. *Infuse* is about flavour, both boozy and culinary. The book begins with oil infusions suitable for salad dressings and condiments. There is a recipe for Thai Prik Nam Pla that is simply store bought fish sauce and hot chilies, muddled and shaken together. None of the recipes are unusual or challenging. A novice cook can easily master every recipe. The chapter on boozy infusions is the longest chapter with a full 62 pages of pictures, description, and recipes. There are recipes for limoncello, coffee liqueur, Irish Cream, and Cinnamon Whiskey. The final chapter in *Infuse* is about water infusions. There are recipes for cold brewed teas and coffee, plus vitamin water. None of it is terribly complicated and there are no special techniques. The book has amazing photography and each recipe has a hero shot with an eye catching back drop of textured wood. The front and back covers are attractive, clean, and wholesome. The recipes can all be made with simple tools, a mason jar with the mason top or another tight fitting and leak proof lid. The infusion technique is quick. Only a few of the recipes require long macerating - the peach bourbon is one of these. There are no stories and very few words. The recipes are basic. The book doesn't add anything original to the conversation. For instance, there is a recipe for spicy popcorn.

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