

"Tales of the Shire"

Advanced Cooking Tips

Flavour

Optimal Flavour combinations:

- Salty + Spicy
- Salty + Sweet
- Sour + Spicy
- Sweet + Bitter
- Sweet + Sour
- Sweet + Spicy

Ideally, you want a balance between the two flavours – e.g. 2-3 Sweet ingredients + 2 Sour ingredients. A third flavour (e.g. 2 Sweet + 2 Sour + 1 Spicy) usually does *not* result in a 5 star meal.

Note that some flavours overwhelm others if the balance is even (e.g. 2 + 2) –

- Bitter > Sweet
- Salty > Bitter
- Salty > Sweet
- Sour > Bitter
- Sour > Salty
- Sour > Sweet
- Spicy > Bitter
- Spicy > Salty
- Spicy > Sour
- Spicy > Sweet

The Sweet flavour is always overwhelmed if the ratio is even, but a Sweet result can still be achieved *and* receive the Well-Balanced bonus – e.g. 3 Sweet + 1 Bitter or 3 Sweet + 1-2 Spicy will result in a Sweet flavour but still be Well-Balanced. Likewise, the Spicy flavour, which is stronger than each of the other four flavours, can be lessened by increasing the ratio towards the second flavour (i.e., Salty, Sour, or Sweet, as Spicy + Bitter is not an optimal flavour combination!).

Adding high-star seasonings to an ingredient will increase the score! Adding a seasoning (the higher star, the better) to an ingredient with the same

flavour will increase the score *without* changing its flavour profile. Note that Cheese and Jam flavours cannot be altered.

Do not think like a real-world cook! Go ahead and add Mint to a Brown Onion or Peppercorn to a Raspberry if it gets the Flavour and points that you want!

Texture

Some ingredients (e.g. nuts) can be modified *only* with the Mortar and Pestle. You will need to level up in the Cooking Club (not with Lily Cotton herself) to unlock the various workstations.

Eggs cannot be prepped at any station except the frying pan, and the Egg appears in some recipes towards the beginning and in others at the end of the prep "directions"! Make sure to account for this when prepping other ingredients by not hitting the texture "sweet spot" before you have cooked the Egg.

Achieving the Five-Star rating

- *At least* half of the ingredients must be 3-star.
- Use as many high-star seasonings as possible (*whether or not* they change the Flavour of the ingredient). Note that leaving an ingredient unseasoned may still result in a 5-star meal if the quality, Flavour balance, and Texture are high.
- Achieve the "Well-Balanced" bonus according to the Flavour combinations chart. Use two Flavours only.
- Achieve the "Texture" bonus by hitting the texture "sweet spot".

Note that Jam is not a meal – the maximum rating for all Jams is 3 stars!

Note that satisfying a guest's craving can be achieved *either* with the requested meal *or* with the requested Flavour! Their delight is measured by the score of the meal that you serve them.