



BASIC TO *BRILLIANT*, Y'ALL

**150 Refined Southern Recipes and
Ways to Dress them Up for Company**

VIRGINIA WILLIS

As the daughter and granddaughter of consummate Southern cooks *and* a classically trained French chef, Virginia Willis has a gift for giving French recipes a down-home Southern feel. Her acclaimed first book, *Bon Appétit, Y'all*, is a passionate homage to her culinary roots. In ***Basic to Brilliant, Y'all***, Virginia builds on her signature style by offering 150 dual recipes: a soul-satisfying basic recipe accompanied by a technique, garnish, additional step, or short recipe that transforms a wonderful dish into a show stopper.

With Virginia, effortlessly comforting Mama's Macaroni Salad is dressed up for company with the addition of jumbo lump crabmeat, and a Panfried Shrimp Po-Boy, a twist on an old favorite, becomes a decadent treat when covered with fried capers. A classic take on a Thanksgiving staple, Brined Roast Turkey Breast, is elevated by fresh, homemade Pear and Cranberry Chutney. Spicy Watermelon Pickles, crisp and cold, cut through the richness of Pork Belly with French Market Red-Eye Gravy, while flavorful, rich Wild Mushroom Soup topped with Herbed Whipped Crème Fraîche goes from a weeknight dish to a restaurant-worthy one.

Basic to Brilliant, Y'all includes starters and nibbles, memorable side dishes, main courses, and, of course, dessert (the Southern sweet tooth cannot be denied!). These recipes are seamlessly designed for any meal or event, from a casual Wednesday night family supper to an elegant weekend party. With her "simple-is-best" philosophy, Virginia uses the finest ingredients, relies on traditional French technique, and lets the food shine through.

VIRGINIA WILLIS is the author of *Bon Appétit, Y'all*, which was nominated for the IACP Best American Cookbook award. She has been featured in *Cooking with Paula Deen*, *House Beautiful*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*, and has appeared on *Martha Stewart Living* and *Paula Deen's Best Dishes*. A graduate of L'Academie de Cuisine and Ecole de Cuisine La Varenne, Willis has served as the kitchen director for *Martha Stewart Living Television* and the executive producer of The Discovery Channel's *Epicurious*. She lives in Atlanta. Visit www.virginiawillis.com.

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