Watermelon Flavor Dynamics

Fresh watermelon appeals to all of the senses with its sweet, fruity flavor with cucumber notes, beautiful color and crisp, juicy texture. Also consider the rind, with its crunchy texture and slight tartness that can be used like soft- and hard- shell squash. When you start to layer cooking techniques, taste affinities, flavor contrasts and global flavors, watermelon reveals its culinary potential.

Use this guide as inspiration to explore watermelon’s versatility by combining flavors and textures in complimentary and contrasting ways to create new food and beverage menu offerings from buzzworthy conversations starters to new spins on classics.

**Cooking Techniques**

**FLESH**
- Compressed, Seared, Grilled, Roasted, Broiled, Smoked, Dehydrated, Pureed, Foam, Carbonated, Infused

**RIND**
- Grated, Pickled, Stir Fried, Sauteed, Braised, Fermented

**Taste Affinities**

**SALTY**
- Flakey Sea Salt
- Feta Cheese
- Fish Sauce

**SWEET**
- Maple Syrup
- Fennel Pollen
- White Chocolate

**BITTER**
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Dark Chocolate
- Mustard Seed

**UMAMI**
- Soy Sauce
- Aged Cheese
- Tuna
- Lamb

**SOUR**
- Lime Juice
- Goat Cheese

**FULL BALANCE**
- Tajin

**Flavor Contrasts**

**FATTY**
- Avocado
- Pork Belly
- Coconut

**PUNGENT**
- Harissa
- Lemon
- Asoefatida
- Red Onion

**HERBACEOUS**
- Fennel
- Cucumber
- Dill
- Parsley
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil

**AROMATIC**
- Kaffir Lime
- Vanilla
- Almond Extract
- Preserved Lemon

**EARTHY**
- Tahini
- Cumin
- Beet

**FERMENTED**
- Fermented Black Beans
- Serrano Ham
# Watermelon Flavor Pairings by Regions of the World

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INGREDIENT CATEGORY</th>
<th>NORTH AMERICA</th>
<th>LATIN AMERICA</th>
<th>CARRIBEAN ISLANDS</th>
<th>NORTH AFRICA</th>
<th>MIDDLE EAST &amp; GREECE</th>
<th>EUROPE</th>
<th>INDIA</th>
<th>SOUTHEAST ASIA</th>
<th>KOREA</th>
<th>CHINA</th>
<th>JAPAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spice</strong></td>
<td>Old Bay Seasoning</td>
<td>Cajun Seasoning</td>
<td>Celery Seed</td>
<td>Allspice Cloves Cinnamon Tumeric</td>
<td>Berber Spice Ras al Hanout Caraway</td>
<td>Sumac Za’attar Baharat</td>
<td>Fennel Pollen Smoked Paprika</td>
<td>Curry Powder Garam Masala Nigella Seed Cardamon Mustard Seed Fennel Seed Asafoetida</td>
<td>Fried Chili</td>
<td>Gochujaru Pepper Flake</td>
<td>White Pepper Five Spice Powder Sesame Seed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Herb</strong></td>
<td>Sage</td>
<td>Epazote Hoja Santa Cilantro</td>
<td>Marjoram</td>
<td>Parsley Cilantro</td>
<td>Dill Parsley</td>
<td>Basil Tarragon Rosemary Thyme</td>
<td>Curry Leaves</td>
<td>Mint Cilantro Kaffir Lime Lemongrass Thai Basil</td>
<td>Garlic Chive Shiso/Perilla</td>
<td>Cilantro</td>
<td>Shisho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Condiment, Sauce</strong></td>
<td>BBQ Sauce Maple Syrup Apple Cider Vinegar Liquid Smoke</td>
<td>Mole Sauce Salsa Chimichurri Sauce</td>
<td>Jerk Molasses</td>
<td>Harissa Charmoula Orange Flower Water Rose Water</td>
<td>Tahini Pomegranate Molasses</td>
<td>Balsamic Vinegar Dijon Mustard Black Olives Extra Virgin Olive Oil Almond Extract</td>
<td>Tamarind</td>
<td>Fish Sauce Nuoc Cham Sambal Olek Curry Paste</td>
<td>Gochujang Saamjang</td>
<td>Hoisin Soy Sauce Fermented Black Beans Sesame Oil Chili Oil</td>
<td>Rice Vinegar Bonito Minir Miso Paste Sesame Oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nut, Seed</strong></td>
<td>Walnut Sunflower Seeds</td>
<td>Cashew Peanut Almond Pistachio Pine Nut</td>
<td>Walnut</td>
<td>Cashew Peanut Sesame Seed Peanut Cashew Black Sesame Seed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dairy</strong></td>
<td>Blue Cheese Mayonnaise Cream Cotija Cheese Sour Cream</td>
<td>Evaporated Milk Labneh</td>
<td>Feta Cheese Myzithra</td>
<td>Goat Cheese Crème Fraiche Fresh Mozzarella/ Burrata Pecorino Romano</td>
<td>Yogurt Paneer Ghee</td>
<td>Condensed Milk Spicy Mayonnaise</td>
<td>Sweet Mayonnaise</td>
<td>Spicy Mayonnaise</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Protein</strong></td>
<td>Salmon Lobster Beef, Grilled Chicken, Fried Pork, Roasted Bacon</td>
<td>Pork Shrimp Ceviche White Fish, Grilled</td>
<td>Beef, Grilled Chicken, Grilled Lobster Shrimp</td>
<td>Lamb, Grilled Chicken, Grilled Shrimp, Grilled</td>
<td>Scallops Oysters Prosciutto Serrano Ham</td>
<td>Chicken, Grilled Lamb</td>
<td>Shrimp, Grilled Beef, Grilled Chicken, Fried</td>
<td>Beef, Grilled Pork, Grilled</td>
<td>Chicken, Fried Beef, Stir Fried Shrimp, Stir Fried Fish, Fried</td>
<td>Pork, Fried Beef, Grilled Mackerel/Eel, Broiled Tuna</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beverage</strong></td>
<td>Sweet Iced Tea Whiskey</td>
<td>Tequila Rum Mint Tea</td>
<td>Ouzo Pastis</td>
<td>Lager Thai Iced Tea</td>
<td>Lager Soju Oolong Tea</td>
<td>Green Tea Sake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>