

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



SOUR

Lime Juice
Goat Cheese

BITTER

Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Dark Chocolate
Mustard Seed

UMAMI

Soy Sauce
Aged Cheese
Tuna
Lamb

FULL BALANCE

Tajin

Flavor Contrasts

FATTY

Avocado
Pork Belly
Coconut

HERBACEOUS

Fennel
Cucumber
Dill
Parsley
Extra Virgin Olive Oil

AROMATIC

Kaffir Lime
Vanilla
Almond Extract
Preserved Lemon

PUNGENT

Harissa
Lemon
Asoefatida
Red Onion

EARTHY

Tahini
Cumin
Beet

FERMENTED

Fermented Black Beans
Serrano Ham



Watermelon Flavor Pairings by Regions of the World														
Ingredient Category	North America	Latin America	Caribbean Islands	North Africa	Middle East & Greece	Europe	India	Southeast Asia	Korea	China	Japan			
Spice	Old Bay Seasoning	Cumin	Allspice	Berber Spice	Sumac	Fennel Pollen	Curry Powder	Fried Chili	Gochujaru Pepper Flake	White Pepper	Furikake			
	Cajun Seasoning	Dry Chili Pepper	Cloves	Ras al Hanout	Za'attar	Smoked Paprika	Nigella Seed			Five Spice Powder	Togarashi			
	Celery Seed	Achiote Paste	Cinnamon	Caraway	Baharat		Cardamon			Sesame Seed	Yelow Curry			
			Tumeric				Mustard Seed							
Herb	Sage	Epazote	Marjoram	Parsley	Dill	Basil	Curry Leaves	Mint	Garlic Chive	Cilantro	Shisho			
		Hoja Santa		Cilantro	Parsley	Parsley		Tarragon				Cilantro	Kaffir Lime	
		Cilantro						Rosemary				Thai Basil	Shiso/Perilla	
								Thyme						
Condiment, Sauce	BBQ Sauce	Mole Sauce	Jerk	Harissa	Tahini	Balsamic Vinegar	Tamarind	Fish Sauce	Gochujang	Hoisen	Rice Vinegar			
	Maple Syrup	Salsa		Charmoula		Pomegranate Molasses				Dijon Mustard	Nuoc Cham	Soy Sauce	Bonito	
	Apple Cider Vinegar	Chimichurri Sauce		Orange Flower Water						Black Olives	Sambal Olek	Fermented Black Beans	Mirin	
	Liquid Smoke			Rose Water						Extra Virgin Olive Oil	Curry Paste	Sesame Oil	Miso Paste	
Nut, Seed	Walnut	Cashew	Peanut	Almond	Pistachio	Walnut	Cashew	Peanut	Sesame Seed	Peanut Cashew	Black Sesame Seed			
	Sunflower Seeds					Pine Nut								
			Jicama	Coconut	Piri Piri Pepper	Lemon	Tomatoes	Onion	Galangal	Watercress	Bok Choy	Seaweed		
			Corn	Mango			Preserved Lemon	Cucumber	Arugula	Chili Peppers	Scallion	Cabbage	Napa Cabbage	Ginger Root
	Black Beans	Plantain		Onion			Fennel	Tomato	Shallot	Kimchi	Baby Corn	Ginger, Pickled		
	Avocado	Orange Peel					Kale	Ginger	Green Papaya	Fermented Black Garlic	Edamame			
Dairy	Blue Cheese	Cotija Cheese	Evaporated Milk	Labneh	Feta Cheese	Goat Cheese	Yogurt	Condensed Milk	Spicy Mayonnaise	Sweet Mayonnaise	Spicy Mayonnaise			
	Mayonnaise					Myzithra						Crème Fraiche	Paneer	
	Cream											Fresh Mozzarella/Burratta	Ghee	
												Pecorino Romano		
Protein	Salmon	Pork	Beef, Grilled	Lamb, Grilled	Lamb, Grilled	Scallops	Chicken, Grilled	Shrimp, Grilled	Beef, Grilled	Chicken, Fried	Pork, Fried			
	Lobster					Chicken, Grilled				Oysters	Beef, Grilled	Beef, Stir Fried	Beef, Grilled	
	Beef, Grilled					Lobster				Procutitto	Lamb	Shrimp, Stir Fried	Pork, Grilled	Mackeral/Eel, Broiled
	Chicken, Fried					Shrimp				Serrano Ham		Fish, Fried		Tuna
Pork, Roasted	White Fish, Grilled													
Bacon														
Beverage	Sweet Iced Tea	Tequila	Rum	Mint Tea	Ouzo	Pastis	Lager	Lager	Soju	Oolong Tea	Green Tea			
	Whiskey							Thai Iced Tea				Sake		