What is the Mediterranean Diet?

The Mediterranean diet is a way of eating that follows the traditional way of eating in Mediterranean countries. This way of eating focuses on fresh vegetables and fruits, whole grains, legumes, and extra virgin oil. When animal protein is consumed, the focus should be on omega-3 rich fish and seafood. When designing your plate, make 1/2 of it vegetables and fruits, 1/4 whole grains or starchy root vegetables, and the other 1/4 a high quality protein (legumes, fish, eggs, or poultry).



Key Aspects of the Mediterranean Diet:

- Based on whole foods
- Eliminates processed foods
- High intake of fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes daily
- High in fiber and antioxidants
- High intake of extra virgin olive oil daily
- Small amounts of unprocessed cheeses and plain yogurt daily
- Red wine in moderation (no more than 5 ounces per day for women and 10 ounces per day for men)
- Focus on fish and seafood high in omega-3 fatty acids
- Poultry and eggs daily or weekly
- Lower in red meats (consume smaller portions of red meats when consumed)
- Low in sweets (choose desserts made from whole foods and natural sweeteners, or fruit and dates)

Mediterranean Diet Plan Based on a 2000 Calorie Diet:

Food Groups	Servings Per Day	Serving Size
Whole Grains and Grain Products	4 to 6	1/2 cup cooked grain, 1 slice bread
Vegetables	3 to 5	1/2 cup fresh or cooked
Dark Leafy Greens	1 to 2	1/2 cup fresh or cooked
Fruits	2 to 3	1/2 cup fresh or 1 whole piece
Legumes	1 to 2	1/2 cup cooked
Nuts & Seeds	1	1/4 cup whole or 2 Tbls nut butter
Olive Oil	4 or more	1 tablespoon
Fish, Seafood, & Poultry	2 to 3 per week	3 to 4 ounces
Dairy Products	1 to 2	1 ounce cheese, 1/2 cup yogurt
Red Meat	1 to 2 per week	3 ounces
Whole Food Desserts	Less than 5 per week	



EAT OFTEN

Vegetables:

Amaranth Greens Artichoke Arugula **Bell Peppers Borage Flowers** Asparagus Avocado Bamboo Shoots Beets **Beet Greens** Bitter Melon (Gourd) **Bok Choy** Broccoli Broccoli Rabe **Brussels Sprouts Burdock Root** Button Mushroom Cabbage **Calendula Flowers** Camas Capers Carrots Carrot Greens Cauliflower Celeriac (Celery Root) Celerv Chanterelle Mushrooms Chickweed Chili Peppers Collard Greens Cress Crimini Mushrooms Cucumber Daikon Dandelion Endive Enokitake Mushrooms Egaplant Fennel Bulb Fiddlehead Fern Frozen Corn Frozen Peas Garlic Green Beans Jerusalem Artichoke Jicama

Kohlrabi Leek Lettuce Lion's Mane Mushrooms Maitake Mushrooms Mizuna Morel Mushrooms Mushrooms **Mustard Greens** Napa Cabbage Nasturtium Flowers Okra Olives Onion Oyster Mushroom **Pansies** Parsnip Pea Shoots Pearl Onions Portobello Mushrooms Potatoes Pumpkin Purslane Radicchio Radish **Radish Sprouts** Ramp Rhubarb Rutabaga Sauerkraut Scallions Shallot Shiitake Mushrooms Sorrel Spinach Spring Onion Squash Squash Blossoms Summer Squash **Sunflower Sprouts** Sweet Potato Swiss chard Taro Tatsoi Tomatoes **Tomatillos**

Kale

Tree Ear Fungus Truffles Turnips Water Chestnut Watercress Wild Leek Winter Squash Yam Yuca Root (Cassava) Zucchini

Fruits:

Açaí Acerola Apple Apricot Banana Bilberry Blackberry **Black Currants** Blood Orange Blueberry Buddha's Hand Cantaloupe Starfruit (Carambola) Cherimoya Cherries Chokeberry Chokecherry Clementines Coconut Meat Crabapple Cranberry Dates Dragonfruit Durian Elderberry Figs Goii Berries Gooseberries **Golden Berries** Grapefruit Grapes Guava Hawthorne Berry Honeydew Melon Huckleberry

Jackfruit Key Limes Kiwi Kumquat Lemon Lime Lingonberry Loganberry Lychee Mandarin Mango Mangosteen Melons Meyer Lemon Orange Mulberry Muskmelon Nectarine Papaya Passionfruit Peach Pear Persimmon Pineapple Plantain Plum Pomegranate Pomelo Quince Raspberry **Red Currants** Salmonberries **Strawberries** Tamarillo Tamarind Tangelo Tangerine Thimbleberries Watermelon Wineberries

Fats: Extra Virgin Olive Oil

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EAT OFTEN

Whole Grains:

Amaranth Barley **Brown Rice** Black Rice **Buckwheat** Bulgur Cornmeal Corn Grits **Corn Tortillas** Durum Wheat Einkorn Wheat Hominy Job's Tears Kamut Millet Oats Polenta Quinoa Rye Rye Bread Sorghum Spelt Teff Triticale Wheat Wheat Bread Wild Rice

Legumes:

Adzuki Beans Black Beans Black-Eved-Peas **Broad Beans** Butter Beans Calico Beans Cannellini Beans Chickpeas Fava Beans Garbanzo Beans Edamame Italian Beans Kidney Beans Lima Beans Lentils Mung Beans Navy Beans

Peas Pink Beans Pinto Beans Soybeans

Soy Foods:

Edamame Soy Milk Tofu Tempeh

Fish & Seafood:

(wild, not farmed) Anchovy Anchovy Paste Arctic Char Bass Black Cod Caviar Clams Cod Crawfish Haddock Halibut Herring Lobster Mackerel Mahi Mahi Mussels Octopus Oyster Roe Salmon (Wild) Sardines Scallops Shrimp Squid Tuna Trout Walleye Whelk

Nuts:

Almonds Almond Butter Brazil nuts Cashews Cashew Butter Chesnuts Hazelnuts Hazelnut Butter Macadamia Nuts Peanuts Peanut Butter Pistachios Walnuts

Seeds:

Chia Seeds Flax Seeds Hemp Seeds Pine Nuts Pumpkin Seeds Pumpkin Seed Butter Sesame Butter (Tahini) Sunflower Seeds Sunflower Seed Butter Poppy Seeds

Herbs:

Basil **Bay Leaves** Chamomile Chervil Chicory Chives Cilantro Curry Leaves Dill Weed Fenugreek Leaves Hibiscus Holy Basil (Tulsi) Horseradish Kaffir Lime Leaves Lavender Lemon Balm Lemongrass Marjoram Moringa Oregano Parsley Peppermint Rose Hips

Red Clover Rosemary Rose Petals Saffron Sage Savory Spearmint Tarragon Thai Basil Thyme

Spices:

Allspice Anise Seeds Annatto Asafetida **Black Cumin Seeds Black Pepper Caraway Seeds** Cardamom Cayenne Pepper Celery Seed **Red Chili Flakes** Chili Powder Chipotle Chili Powder Cinnamon Cloves Cumin Powder Curry Powder **Dill Seeds Fennel Seeds** Fenugreek Seeds Galangal Ginger Juniper Berries Mace Mustard Powder **Mustard Seeds** Nutmeg Paprika **Smoked Paprika** Star Anise Turmeric



For Mediterranean Diet Recipes and Meal Plans

EAT MODERATELY

Poultry:

(pasture-raised, wild, organ Chicken Cornish Game Hen Duck Goose Quail Pheasant

Eggs:

Turkey

Chicken Eggs Duck Eggs Turkey Eggs Egg Whites

Dairy:

Butter and Ghee Buttermilk Cheese (All Types) Cottage Cheese Cream Cheese Kefir Fresh Milk Heavy Cream Sour Cream Yogurt Whey Goat Milk and products

Flours:

Almond Flour Arrowroot Powder Cassava Flour Coconut Flour Chestnut Flour Green Banana Flour Hazelnut Flour Mesquite Flour Plantain Flour Sweet Potato Flour Tapioca Flour Tigernut Flour Water Chestnut Flour Barley Flour **Brown Rice Flour** White Rice Flour Sweet Rice Flour **Buckwheat Flour** Cornmeal Corn Flour Einkorn Flour Kamut Flour Masa Flour **Millet Flour** Oat Flour Quinoa Flour **Rye Flour** Sorghum Flour Spelt Flour Teff Flour **Triticale Flour** Wheat Flour

Beverages:

Black Tea Green Tea Matcha Tea Coffee Almond Milk Oat Milk Light Coconut Milk Coconut Water Coconut Water Kombucha* Kvass* Water Kefir Herbal Teas Hot Chocolate Red Wine

Fats:

Avocado Oil Coconut Oil Grapeseed Oil Flax Oil Walnut Oil Coconut Butter

Vinegars:

Apple Cider Vinegar Balsamic Vinegar Champagne Vinegar Coconut Vinegar Red Wine Vinegar White Wine Vinegar Brown Rice Vinegar Rice Wine Vinegar Mirin

Sea Vegetables:

Arame Dulse Hijiki Kombu Nori Wakame

Other Ingredients:

Agar Agar Flakes **Baking Soda Baking Powder** Baker's Yeast Cacao Powder Carob Powder Cream of Tarter Dark Chocolate Nutritional Yeast Shredded Coconut Collagen Powder Gelatin Powder Kudzu **Tapioca** Pearls Vanilla Extract Almond Extract Peppermint Extract Lemon Extract Vanilla Bean Vanilla Powder





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EAT LESS OFTEN

Meats:

(grass-fed, pasture-raised, wild) Antelope Bacon Beef Bison Caribou Elk Goat Lamb Mutton Pork Rabbit Venison Sausages

Sweeteners:

Agave Nectar **Barley Malt Syrup Brown Rice Syrup** Coconut Nectar **Coconut Sugar** Dates Date Sugar Demerara Sugar Malt Syrup Maple Syrup Maple Sugar Molasses Monk Fruit Sweetener Pomegranate Molasses Rapadura Raw Honey Sorghum Syrup Sucanat Turbinado Sugar Yacon Syrup

Salt & Seasonings:

Sea Salt Pink Himalayan Salt Kosher Salt Herbamare Coconut Aminos Soy Sauce Tamari Fish Sauce (Red Boat) Bonita Flakes Umeboshi Plum Paste Wasabi

Fats:

Organic Palm Shortening Red Palm Oil



Fish & Seafood:

Farmed Salmon Atlantic Salmon Swordfish

Fats:

Safflower Oil Sunflower Oil Soybean Oil Canola Oil Corn Oil Cottonseed Oil Palm Kernel Oil Peanut Oil Vegetable Oil Hydrogenated Oils Margarine

Sweeteners:

(Use nutrient-dense natural sweeteners instead of these) Aspartame Beet Sugar **Brown Sugar** Cane Juice Cane Sugar Corn Syrup **Crystalline Fructose** Fructose **Glucose Syrup** Golden Syrup Pancake Syrup Saccharin Sugar Simple Syrup Sucralose

Other Ingredients:

Acesulfame Potassium Artificial Flavors Artificial Food Colors Autolyzed Protein Nitrates or Nitrites MSG Yeast Extract



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