

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 complementary and contrasting ways to create new food and beverage menu offerings from buzzworthy conversation 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

Flaky 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
Asafoetida
Red Onion

HERBACEOUS

Fennel
Cucumber
Dill
Parsley
Extra Virgin Olive Oil

EARTHY

Tahini
Cumin
Beet

AROMATIC

Kaffir Lime
Vanilla
Almond Extract
Preserved Lemon

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	Berberie Spice	Sumac	Fennel Pollen Smoked Paprika	Curry Powder Garam Masala Nigella Seed	Fried Chili	Gochugaru Pepper Flake	White Pepper	Furikake
	Cajun Seasoning	Dry Chili Pepper	Cloves	Ras el Hanout	Za'atar		Cardamon			Five Spice Powder	Togarashi
	Celery Seed	Achiote Paste	Cinnamon	Caraway	Baharat		Mustard Seed			Sesame Seed	Yelow Curry
		Tajin	Turmeric				Fennel Seed Asafoetida				
Herb	Sage	Epazote Hoja Santa Cilantro	Marjoram	Parsley Cilantro	Dill Parsley	Basil Tarragon Rosemary Thyme	Curry Leaves	Mint Cilantro Kaffir Lime Lemongrass Thai Basil	Garlic Chive Shiso/Perilla	Cilantro	Shisho
Condiment, Sauce	BBQ Sauce Maple Syrup Apple Cider Vinegar Liquid Smoke	Mole Sauce Salsa Chimichurri Sauce	Jerk Molasses	Harissa Charmoula Orange Flower Water Rose Water	Tahini Pomegranate Molasses	Balsamic Vinegar Dijon Mustard Black Olives Extra Virgin Olive Oil Almond Extract	Tamarind	Fish Sauce Nuoc Cham Sambal Oelek Curry Paste	Gochugan Ssamjang	Housin Soy Sauce Fermented Black Beans Sesame Oil Chili Oil	Rice Vinegar Bonito Mirin Miso Paste Sesame Oil
Nut, Seed	Walnut Sunflower Seeds	Cashew	Peanut	Almond	Pistachio Pine Nut	Walnut	Cashew	Peanut	Sesame Seed	Peanut Cashew	Black Sesame Seed
Produce	Sweet Potato Strawberry Blackberry Blueberry	Jicama Corn Black Beans Avocado Chili Peppers	Coconut Mango Plantain Orange Peel	Piri Piri Pepper Preserved Lemon	Lemon Cucumber Onion	Tomatoes Arugula Fennel Kale Roasted Garlic	Onion Chili Peppers Tomato Ginger Turmeric	Galangal Scallion Shallot Green Papaya	Watercress Cabbage Kimchi Fermented Black Garlic	Bok Choy Napa Cabbage Baby Corn	Seaweed Ginger Root Ginger, Pickled Daikon Edamame
Dairy	Blue Cheese Mayonnaise Cream	Cotija Cheese Sour Cream	Evaporated Milk	Labneh	Feta Cheese Myzithra	Goat Cheese Crème Fraiche Fresh Mozzarella/ Burratta Pecorino Romano	Yogurt Paneer Ghee	Condensed Milk	Spicy Mayonnaise	Sweet Mayonnaise	Spicy Mayonnaise
Protein	Salmon Lobster Beef, Grilled Chicken, Fried Pork, Roasted Bacon	Pork Shrimp Ceviche White Fish, Grilled	Beef, Grilled Chicken, Grilled Lobster Shrimp	Lamb, Grilled Chicken, Grilled	Lamb, Grilled Shrimp, Grilled	Scallops Oysters Prociutto Serrano Ham	Chicken, Grilled Lamb	Shrimp, Grilled Beef, Grilled Chicken, Fried	Beef, Grilled Pork, Grilled	Chicken, Fried Beef, Stir Fried Shrimp, Stir Fried Fish, Fried	Pork, Fried Beef, Grilled Mackerel/Eel, Broiled Tuna
Beverage	Sweet Iced Tea Whiskey	Tequila	Rum	Mint Tea	Ouzo	Pastis	Lager	Lager Thai Iced Tea	Soju	Oolong Tea	Green Tea Sake