

EAT, SHOOT, BLOG

The internet is brimming with gorgeous food pictures that instantly make you hungry. Shoot your own with these expert tips. By **PRACHI JOSHI**

It's not enough to just invent a recipe, cook a delicious meal, and upload your efforts on to your blog. With food photography taking off in a big way, your labour of love needs to be advertised with delectable pictures too. Help is at hand—top food bloggers share what it takes to take the perfect food shot.

Chinmayee Bhat
Lovefoodeat.com

On a break after having her baby, Bhat started Love Food Eat in 2011. Without any formal training in photography, she has developed her own distinctive style, with dark colours and hard shadows as her tools. **Star shot:** Pay close attention to the lighting. "It can make or break your photo. Use natural sunlight as far as possible and never, ever use flash. Natural light can make a big difference, especially for amateur photographers," says Bhat.



Shaheen Peerbhai
Purplefoodie.com

Peerbhai started The Purple Foodie in 2007, as a way to chronicle her baking adventures. With a Le Cordon Bleu certification under her belt, she is well on her way to pastry stardom. **Star shot:** Plan your backdrop well. "Invest in good crockery and linen. I love collecting a variety of ceramics because they look charming in photos," says Peerbhai. "My style used to be very colourful, with lots of patterns in the backdrop, but now I have moved to a cleaner style and use neutral colours to keep the focus on the food."



Beth Kirby

Beth Kirby
Localmilkblog.com

Kirby started blogging in 2012 and her Local Milk Blog was lauded for its photography at *Saveur* magazine's Best Food Blog Awards 2014—both in the Readers' and Editors' Choice categories. **Star shot:** Learn how to shoot in manual mode. "It will be

Deeba Rajpal
Passionate aboutbaking.com

One of the first food bloggers in India, Rajpal has come a long way since 2007. Passionate About Baking is chock-a-block with recipes and appetising pictures in Rajpal's signature style that veers towards moody hues and rustic design. **Star shot:** Use props for styling, but keep the scene minimalistic. "I love using vintage Indian props. You could find your most cherished ones in the most obscure places, so always keep an eye out," suggests Rajpal. "Let the food be the hero; don't put everything in the frame just because you own it," she adds.



difficult at first, but once you've got it, you have creative control," says the Tennessee native, adding, "You will then be able to see light and shadow as subjects in and of themselves."

Robyn Eckhardt and David Hagerman
Eatingasia. typepad.com

Eating Asia is Eckhardt and Hagerman's means of visual storytelling, as they traverse the continent. Hagerman's Instagram account (davehagerman) is also a smorgasbord of enticing food pictures. The couple is currently working on their first book on the foods of Istanbul and Eastern Turkey. **Star shot:** Include people in the photo, wherever possible. "I like taking shots of people holding dishes or while they are eating," says Hagerman. "This doesn't necessarily mean showing the whole person: just show enough to add context to the shot and to put the viewer at the table," he adds.

Shaheen Peerbhai



David Hagerman and Robyn Eckhardt

