

MARIANI'S

Virtual Gourmet

November 29, 2009

NEWSLETTER

By John Mariani

Classic Lebanese Cuisine by Chef Kamal Al-Faqih (Three Forks, \$24.95).

It's been a very long time since a good Lebanese cookbook has hit the stalls, and it's probably *not* the next big thing, but I am very glad that this new volume is so authoritative, from the correct way to make hummus to the fine craft of producing delicious fish kibbi. There is great range here and the food is different from other Middle Eastern cuisines. The delightful cookie and dessert chapter shows off the glories of that genre in Lebanese kitchens, and there are plenty of tricks by this former caterer for making big family-style meals without worry.

