

## Pizza

Pizza is among the most popular dishes in the world. In the United States, for example, 13 percent of the population will eat pizza each day. The basic recipe for a pizza is a bread-like crust topped with sauce, cheese, and any other foods that one might prefer. This flexibility is one of the features that has maintained pizza's popularity – even the cheese is optional, particularly on vegan pizzas.

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Although the pizza as we know it today originated in Italy, its history is far older, with pizza-like food having been made since the stone age. It was brought to America by Italian immigrants, and popularised by soldiers returning from Europe after World War II. The global expansion of pizza's popularity then proceeded with the influence of American media.

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Conventionally, pizza is cooked in an extremely hot clay oven, at temperatures higher than most domestic ovens can attain. This is the main reason that home-cooked pizzas never taste quite the same as those from a restaurant. Nevertheless, advances in food technology mean that frozen pizzas have become more popular and more satisfying, extending the food's appeal to areas where pizza restaurants are hard to find.

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Does pizza need to have cheese on it?

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Who brought pizza to America?

What is your favourite pizza?