

WOULD YOU GO BACK TO SCHOOL IF YOU QUALIFIED FOR A GRANT? SEE IF YOU QUALIFY. SELECT YOUR AGE: classesUSA

By Michelle Locke, For The Associated Press

Updated 12/9/2011 8:41 AM

Comment Recommend 73 Tweet 6

Cookies and tea are nice, but cookies and wine can be fine.



Matthew Mead, AP

and tea are nice, but cookies and wine can be fine. Shown here are lemon almond cookies and late-harvest Riesling.

That's something Leah Kuo and Laura Englander, co-owners of Cookies & Corks found out a few years ago.

The pair already had turned their culinary and marketing smarts into a business selling gourmet cookies direct-to-consumers and through local merchants. Then, Englander got a new idea after delivering cookies to a Falls Church, Va., wine shop that was carrying their goodies.

**MORE:** Share your holiday cookie recipes  
**PHOTOS:** Tis the season for holiday cookies

A wine tasting was going on and she was struck by a thought — How about pairing cookies with wine?

So, she and Kuo sat down and wrote out a business plan, got busy with recipes and enlisted the expertise of wine columnist Amy Reiley. The result is a line of gourmet and savory cookies intended specifically to pair with wine.

"It was fun to come up with these formulas from a cookie standpoint," says Kuo.

For instance, bakers usually use table salt which dissolves well and doesn't leave a distinct taste behind. But for wine pairings a salty finish can be an asset, so Kuo started using kosher salt, with its larger grains and

bigger taste wallop. "Then when you pair with wine, a buttery chardonnay, say, or cabernet franc or even a zinfandel, it really is a great pairing."

Looking for some holiday inspired pairings of your own?

Pamela Heiligenthal, co-founder and editor of Enobytes.com, suggests matching gingerbread with riesling or gewurztraminer, two aromatic white wines. "The spiciness of the cookie brings out the honey and peach notes of a riesling," she says. "Try it with a gewurztraminer to accentuate the spiciness of the cookie."

The holidays also are a good time to pull out the bubbly, and shortbread is a good match for a sparkling wine or blanc de blanc Champagne (sparkling wine from France's Champagne region made from chardonnay grapes). "The light and dry flavors of the bubbles cut through the firm, crumbly buttery goodness of the cookie," says Heiligenthal.

Another traditional favorite, lace cookies, can be paired with late-harvest riesling, with the wine's delicate flavors complementing the delicate crispness of the buttery cookies.

Sherry is another stand-by for sweet pairings.

Videos you may be interested in

Sponsored Link  
New Auto Trick Insurance.Compari  
Halloween Party Ideas  
Watching for the signs of depression

byTaboola More videos

Ads by Google

- #1 Gift Baskets Website  
Beautifully-Designed, Handmade Gift Baskets under \$25; Tower \$20!  
[www.WineCountryGiftBaskets.com](http://www.WineCountryGiftBaskets.com)
- Udi's Gluten Free Muffins  
Try Udi's Gluten Free Muffins. 100% GF and 100% Delicious! Get \$1 Off.  
[UdisGlutenFree.com/Muffins](http://UdisGlutenFree.com/Muffins)
- Delicious Sabra® Recipes  
Check out Healthy & Easy to Make Recipes with Sabra Dips & Hummus.  
[www.sabra.com](http://www.sabra.com)

Ads by Adblade™

Today's Offers Home Refinance Daily Deals

- 50% unemployment & 90% Dow crash also predicted.
- Exclusive short video reveals the secret of how to learn any language in just 10 days!
- Famed economist predicts economic calamity in 2012. See the evidence.
- These 4 things happen right before a heart attack. Know these signs before it's too late.
- Learn to make a fortune by trading penny stocks online. You can live your dream from home.
- Dallas - New trick allows many Texas residents to get car insurance at half-price.

Most Popular

Stories

- Ohio boy who weighed 200 pounds to live...
- Brain stimulation may help some stroke...
- Hand, foot, mouth disease kills 156 in...
- School Scrooge? Teacher reportedly tells...
- Poor lifestyles harming U.S. heart health

Videos

- Raw Video: McQueary arrives at court
- UFC 141 preview
- Behind the scenes at Vegas' Bellagio fountains

Most Popular E-mail Newsletter

Liz Mendez, co-owner of Vera Chicago, a wine bar featuring Spanish cuisine in Chicago, suggests going with an amontillado-style sherry when serving cookies. This kind of sherry is in between dry and sweet, so it makes a nice contrast with desserts without overpowering them. Amontillado sherry also typically has a nutty flavor which goes well with rich treats.

Some suggested pairings from Kuo and Englander include their espresso chocolate peanut butter cookie and a zesty lemon cookie with prosecco.

The zesty lemon, lightly tart and sweet, is a versatile player, says Englander. "The fun part is when I put this cookie in front of people. They're always surprised to take the zesty lemon cookie and pair it with a merlot or a light pinot noir. Acidic red wines like those red wines are very complementary with this acidic lemon cookie."

Kuo also likes the idea of using cookie-and-wine pairings as a way to get people thinking about mixing and matching flavors. "It was so interesting to think of this as more than just a fun way to entertain, which it is, but also a way to educate people in an accessible manner on how to do food and wine pairings."

Cookies and wine — not the most conventional pairing, but it just may turn out to be your cup of tea.

Online:

Englander and Kuo's website: <http://cookiesandcorks.com/>

Heiligenthal's website: <http://enobytes.com>

For more information about [reprints & permissions](#), visit our [FAQ's](#). To report corrections and clarifications, contact Standards Editor [Brent Jones](#). For publication consideration in the newspaper, send comments to [letters@usatoday.com](mailto:letters@usatoday.com). Include name, phone number, city and state for verification. To view our corrections, go to [corrections.usatoday.com](http://corrections.usatoday.com).

Posted 12/9/2011 7:00 AM | Updated 12/9/2011 8:41 AM



## More from USATODAY

**IndyCar: Dan Wheldon died when his head hit post in fencing** [USATODAY.com in Sports](#)

**You tell us: How do you feel about Facebook's changes?** [USATODAY.com in Technology Live](#)

**Ex-Penn State officials Curley, Schultz face hearing** [USATODAY.com in On Deadline](#)

**Trim your tree with style** [USATODAY.com - Your life](#)

**Pastrami egg rolls from NYC Chinese food maven** [USATODAY.com - Your life](#)

## More from the web

**Vitamin D Affects Genes for Cancer, Autoimmune Diseases** [HealthCentral.com](#)

**5 Foods That Can Cause Sleep Problems** [Caring.com](#)

**What Happened to Marie Osmond's Face?** [Style Goes Strong](#)

**The #1 Reason Men Over 50 Can't Sleep Through the Night.** [Newsrax.com](#)

**Managing Stress With HIV** [EverydayHealth.com](#) [?]

USA TODAY is now using Facebook Comments on our stories and blog posts to provide an enhanced user experience. To post a comment, log into Facebook and then "Add" your comment. To report spam or abuse, click the "X" in the upper right corner of the comment box. To find out more, read the [FAQ](#) and [Conversation Guidelines](#).



Add a comment...



**Florence Forsgren**

Cookies and wine. Now why didn't I think of that?

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · December 10 at 2:52pm



**Jennifer Scott Newman** · Framingham State University

Cookies and Wine may be a new favorite pairing :-)

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · December 9 at 10:05am

Facebook social plugin

## Ads by Google

**Catering Menus & Ideas**

Free Event Planning

**Best Loire Valley Tours**

Small Group Castles & Culinary Tour

**Healthcare Professionals**

MS agent. May improve walking.

## Sign up to get:

Top viewed stories, photo galleries and community posts of the day

## Most popular right now:

High school athletes suspended for Tebowing



Sign up for USA TODAY E-mail newsletters

## Helping breast health



RESOURCE GUIDE

**Coping with Breast Cancer**

Watch an educational series from Nurse.com

## Your Life: Health



WE ARE THE ONES  
WHO HELP YOU FACE YOUR DAILY DILEMMAS

Advertisement

- | Health   | Fitness   | Food  | Family  | Relationships   | Mind & Soul   | Health Care   | Pets  |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alternative</li><li>• Alzheimer's</li><li>• Autism</li><li>• Breast cancer</li><li>• Cancer</li><li>• Cold &amp; flu</li><li>• Dental</li><li>• Depression</li><li>• Diabetes</li><li>• Heart disease</li><li>• Kids' health</li><li>• Men's health</li><li>• Mental health</li><li>• Women's health</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exercise</li><li>• Family fitness challenge</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recipes &amp; cooking</li><li>• Diet &amp; nutrition</li><li>• Safety</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Babies</li><li>• Daycare</li><li>• Pregnancy</li><li>• Special needs</li><li>• Teens &amp; young adults</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dating</li><li>• Marriage</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Doing Good</li><li>• Spirituality</li><li>• Education</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hospitals</li><li>• Government</li><li>• Doctors &amp; nurses</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cats</li><li>• Dogs</li></ul> |

