



Food for Thought with Catherine Jheon

About

- [Blog Home](#)
- [About This Blog](#)
- [About CJ](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Code of Conduct](#)

Recent Entries

- [GUEST BLOGGER: Virtually Delicious](#)
- [Two Canadian Restaurants Make the Cut](#)
- [Foodtv.ca Cooking Club Launches with a Michael Smith Recipe](#)
- [Are You Pro or Anti Rachael Ray?](#)
- [Weekly Roundup: April Week 4](#)

Categories

- [Behind the Scenes \(34\)](#)
- [CJ's Guilty Pleasures \(11\)](#)
- [Food News \(81\)](#)
- [Food Trends \(63\)](#)
- [Foodtv.ca Cooking Club \(2\)](#)
- [Guest Bloggers \(11\)](#)
- [Interviews \(26\)](#)
- [Kitchen Gadgets \(10\)](#)
- [Recipes \(33\)](#)
- [Reviews \(38\)](#)
- [Tasting Lab \(1\)](#)

Archives by Date

- [May 2007 \(3\)](#)
- [April 2007 \(29\)](#)
- [March 2007 \(29\)](#)
- [February 2007 \(36\)](#)
- [January 2007 \(44\)](#)
- [December 2006 \(27\)](#)
- [November 2006 \(15\)](#)

Canadian Food Blogs

- [Always in the Kitchen](#)
- [Are You Gonna Eat That?](#)
- [Canadian Baker](#)
- [Canada Eats](#)
- [Chef-girl.net](#)
- [Confessions of a Cardamom Addict](#)
- [Cream Puffs in Venice](#)
- [Daily Unadventures in Cooking](#)
- [Domestic Goddess](#)
- [Do You Know the Muffin Man](#)
- [Edible Tulip](#)
- [Endless Banquet](#)
- [Everybody Likes Sandwiches](#)
- [Foodies Across Border](#)
- [From the Branches of an Olive Tree](#)
- [Frugal Cuisine](#)
- [Hooked on Heat](#)
- [Hungry in Hogtown](#)
- [Hunger Over Thirst](#)
- [In The Kitchen](#)
- [I Like to Cook](#)
- [Kayaksoup](#)
- [Kee Cooks](#)
- [KitchenSavvy](#)
- [Knife Skills](#)
- [Maple Syrup and Poutine](#)
- [QZine](#)
- [Thought for Food](#)
- [The Spice Who Loved Me](#)
- [Lex Culinaria](#)

Thursday, May 03, 2007 10:00 AM

GUEST BLOGGER: Virtually Delicious



When you think of videogames, what's the first thing that comes to mind? Maybe you think of violence or war games. Or maybe you think they're just for kids. Or you think they're silly time wasters. But do you ever think of food when you think of videogames?

If you play games or you've got kids with videogame consoles or PCs at home, you might have seen these games. But have you ever played any food-related videogames?

I must admit I do play quite a few videogames at home, so I guess I'm what you'd call a gamer. And I've always been a fan of silly, cartoon-y games that can entertain me for a few minutes here and there. Recently food games have topped my play list. In particular, I've been playing [Cooking Mama](#) and [Cooking Mama: Cook Off](#).

Both of these *Cooking Mama* games are completely based on cutting, shopping, mixing, stirring, broiling, boiling, cooking and more. The only difference between the two is how you play them. *Cooking Mama* is a [Nintendo DS](#) game (a handheld system) that you play exclusively by touching the screen with a stylus (similar to how you use a touch screen of a PDA) to mix, stir, add ingredients and more. And *Cook Off* is a [Wii](#) (console system) game. You use a remote to point at the screen to do all your peeling, mixing and cooking.

It might seem completely silly to find prepping food with a videogame fun, but when I'm chopping carrots at my own kitchen counter it just doesn't thrill me as much. If you've got a Nintendo DS or a Wii at home, definitely give these games a chance; they're unique and fun!



There are also many other games out there with a food skew that might interest you:

[Fast Food Tycoon](#) - A PC simulation game where you create and manage a restaurant. You might like this if you've been a fan of other sim games such as [The Sims](#).

[Harvest Moon](#) - This series of games has made its way on to several game systems: Super Nintendo, PlayStation, GameBoy to name a few. It's another sim-type of game similar to *The Sims*,

but with a farming twist. You grow produce, raise livestock, and get married and have children along the way.

[Tamaqotchi](#) - You might know this toy (looks kind of like a keychain) as a handheld digital pet you feed and clean. But the game has also made its way to a traditional videogame format. Recent Nintendo DS versions of the game ([Corner Shop](#)) have a lot of food-related mini-games; a lot like the ones you'll find in the *Cooking Mama* games.

Has anyone else tried cooking-related videogames?

- Jessica, Manager, Foodtv.ca

Published by Jessica [Edit](#)

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