Eat Great, Lose Weight

Just because they can whip up a mean lobster mac and cheese doesn't mean top chefs drown everything in butter. We got the skinny on the surprising ingredients they use to make good-for-you food taste anything but.

By Sharon Liao Photographs by Patrick Flanigan

Silken tofu

"Although it's low-fat, silken tofu has a rich texture. I blend it with Dijon mustard, lemon juice, capers, shallots and Worcestershire sauce for a creamy salad dressing. Bonus: One cup of tofu contains 11 grams of protein and almost 20 percent of the calcium you need daily."

—Cheryl Forberg, R.D., the nutritionist for The Biggest Loser and author of Flavor First

Bulgur

"This whole grain has a hearty bite and six grams of protein per cup, so it works well as a vegetarian replacement for ground beef in chili, stew and lasagna. And preparing it is so easy: Just add hot water, cover and let sit for 20 to 30 minutes."

—Mollie Katzen, the author of The New Moosewood Cookbook and The Heart of the Plate

Orange juice

"To add flavor—and vitamin C—but no fat or sodium, I mix OJ into butternut squash soup and whipped sweet potatoes. I also poach fish in the juice, then add a few garlic cloves and peppercorns and reduce the liquid to make a delicious sauce."

-Claire Robinson, the host of the Food Network's 5 Ingredient Fix and Food Network Challenge

Eggplant

"I char a whole one directly over a high gas flame or in a grill pan, turning it every few minutes. Then I scrape out the flesh and combine it with an egg white and lean ground turkey to make moist, mama-approved meatballs."

 Rocco DiSpirito, the author of Now Eat This! Italian, the host of Now Eat This! Italy and a FITNESS advisory board member