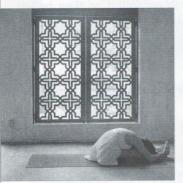


EAT TO GLOW

Five Foods to Boost Vitality

hen I first began practicing yoga, I spent countless are recommended supply of ojas:
to cook after class for dinner. While people around me touched into samadhi states, I was busily trying to sort out what I could make for dinner to keep my body feeling as a garnish, or

great as it did on my mat.



Over the years, thanks to my study of yoga's sister science, Ayurveda, I'm now able to relax during savasana and don't feel the same angst about my food choices. But as a chef and Ayurvedic nutrition coach, I constantly hear that finding foods that help us feel both nourished and energized is a struggle for many.

Whatever style of yoga you prefer, the choices you make for your après-class meal can help extend your yoga buzz long after you leave your mat. It turns out that juicy, glowing feeling you experience after a rejuvenating practice isn't just in your head, but rather is an expression of your body's vital essence, known as ojas in Ayurveda.

Ojas is a subtle essence, responsible for governing our immune system, keeping the body's joints and tissues well-lubricated, and fostering the balanced production of our hormones. As we accumulate ojas, we enjoy physical vigor and mental clarity that allow us to weather the challenges of modern, daily life. When ojas is low, we experience less resilience to stress and can end up easily depleted and fatigued.

Fortunately, the foods we consume daily can help to build our reserves of this essential energy. The following foods are recommended for producing and maintaining a healthy supply of ojas:

By Meredith Klein

- Avocados are wonderful to integrate into any meal as a garnish, or can be enjoyed as a snack on their own.
 I enjoy garnishing them with a touch of lemon juice, and a sprinkle of sea salt and smoked paprika for a quick snack.
- Dates are a fantastic choice for people who crave sweet foods. Their high fiber content helps to regulate the release of sugar into the blood stream, preventing the type of spike-and-crash cycles you may experience with refined sugars. As an added bonus, dates help nurture healthy sleep cycles and are a great choice if you suffer from insomnia.
- Ghee (clarified butter) is a staple food in Ayurveda and one of the best ojas boosters you can find. It also is the best oil available to help transfer the medicinal powers of spices and herbs into the tissues of the body. Use it as a cooking oil, or try drizzling it over warm foods.
- Milk is classically recommended in Ayurveda for nurturing ojas, especially when warmed and combined with medicinal herbs. Nut milks (especially almond milk) also help foster ojas. Warm milk-based elixirs are a great choice before bed.
- Tahini is an excellent choice for the base of sauces and dressings. It can also be spread on toast or crackers with a touch of honey for a satisfying snack.

Meredith Klein is an Ayurvedic chef and nutrition coach based in Santa Monica, and the author of the upcoming cookbook, Kitchen Ritual. Learn more about her work at pranaful.com.

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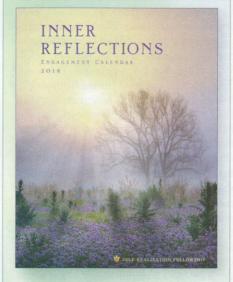


Golden Rose Milk

- 2 cups almond milk (or milk of your choice) 2 dates, pitted
- 1/4 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1/8 teaspoon ashwagandha powder* (optional) 4-5 drops rosewater

Place milk, dates, turmeric, and ashwagandha (if using) in a small pot and bring to a gentle simmer. Cook for 10 minutes. Place spiced milk and rosewater in a blender. Vent the blender lid slightly to release steam and carefully blend at high speed until dates are fully incorporated. Serve immediately or refrigerate and reheat individual servings.

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