PITTA FOOD PROGRAM Awaken to the Magic

of Your True Nature

# **Basic Principles**

Qualities to Reduce: Hot, Light, Dry Qualities to Increase: Cool, heavy, moist Best: Sweet, Bitter, Astringent Avoid: Pungent (hot), Sour, Salty 6 Tastes () Sweet: Earth & Water Sour: Fire & Earth Salty: Fire & Water Pungent: Fire & Air Astringent: Earth & Air Bitter: Air & Ether

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## Grains

Best to eat cooked grains or unyeasted bread (grains should make large portion of diet) BEST: Barley, basmati rice, oats, whole wheat Avoid: Buckwheat, corn flour (chips, bread, tortillas, popcorn), dry granola, polenta Dairy

It is best to use raw or organic whole milk. Try warm with a bit of ginger & cardamom. **Best:** Ghee, unsalted Butter, whole milk, oat & coconut milk, cream cheese, cottage cheese **OK:** hard non-salted Cheeses

Avoid: Buttermilk, sour cream, kefir, yogurt

## Sweeteners

Best: maltose, maple syrup, rice syrup, OK in small amts: honey, fructose, dextrose Avoid: molasses, raw sugar

## Oils

Best: Ghee, olive oil OK: Avocado, sunflower, coconut Avoid: Almond, castor, flaxseed, margarine, mustard seed, peanut, safflower, sesame

## Spices/Condiments

When Spicing, the overall spiciness is more important than individual spices. Even some "Avoid" spices can be used if balanced with other spices on the "Best" list. Mild to moderate as opposed to bland or very hot. **Best:** Cardamom, chamomile, coconut, coriander, dill, fennel, lemon verbena, peppermint, saffron, turmeric, carob OK: Basil, bay leaf, black pepper, caraway, cinnamon, cumin, fresh ginger, oregano, rosemary, thyme, sweet mustards, mayonaise
 Avoid: anise, asafoetida, calamus, cayenne, paprika, cloves, fenugreek, garlic, dry ginger, horseradish, marjoram, mustard, nutmeg, sage, star anise, poppy seeds, chocolate, salt, vinegar, hyssop, hot pepper flakes

## Vegetables

Best eaten fresh & Ig amounts. Cooked in winter or week digestion. Raw in Summer of strong digestion. Fresh green juices BEST. **Best:** Alfalfa Sprouts, artichoke, asparagus, bean sprouts, bell pepper, bitter melon, broccoli, brussels, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cilantro, cress, cucumber, kale, leafy greens, lettuce, mushrooms, cooked inions, peas, pumpkin, seaweed, squash, zucchini **OK:** avocado, beets, carrots, cooked garlic, parsley, potato, spinach, vine-ripened tomato **Avoid: if Arthritic, all nightshades!** chilis, hot peppers, mustard greens, raw onion, radish, tomato paste, sauce

## Legumes

Best: Black lentils, chickpeas, mung beans, split peas, soybeans (all soy products), tofu
OK in small amts: adzuki, kidney, navy, & pinto beans
Avoid: red & yellow lentils

### Fruits

Sweeter Ripe Fruits are best. Avoid Sour. **Best:** apples, avocados, berries, cantaloupe, coconut, dates, dried fruits, figs, sweet grapes, lemons, limes, nectarines, prunes, raisins **OK:** apricots, bananas (very ripe only), cherries, grapefruit, orange, pineapple **Avoid: Sour fruits** mandarin, sour plum, papaya, olives, tangerine, & all unripe fruit

## Nuts/Seeds

Best: Coconut, sunflower & pumpkin Seeds Ok in small Amts: pine nuts, sesame seeds Avoid: almonds, brazil nuts, cashews, macadamia, pecan, pistachio, peanut

### Meats

If you choose to eat meat, limit consumption to 3-4 times per week **Best:** Fowl, eggs, fresh water fish **OK in small amts:** beef, lamb, pork, sea fishes, venison, any other red meat

#### **Beverages**

Best: 5 cups of water per day. Bitter & astringent herb teas such as alfalfa, chicory, dandelion, hibiscus, & strawberry leaf. Milks, wheat grass.
 Avoid: alcohol, carbonation, coffee, spicy herb teas, soft drinks, tomato juice