

Lemon Roasted Brussels Sprouts

You know there is always room for one more roasted sprout recipe in your repertoire. This one takes this winter veg right into spring with the bright taste of lemon and the sweetness of caramelized shallots.

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees

1 large or 2 small Meyer lemon, if available, otherwise 2 small unwaxed lemons- chopped very fine peel and all

4 medium shallots, peeled and chopped

1.5 lbs Brussel Sprouts, trimmed and cut in halves or quarters depending on size

Good Quality Extra Virgin Olive Oil, enough to lightly coat sprouts

Flaked Sea Salt to taste

Toss all prepared ingredients together in a large bowl making sure sprouts are well coated with oil. Layout in a single layer on a parchment-lined baking sheet. If crowded use a second sheet. Pop in the oven for 35-45 mins. Cooking time will depend on the density of the sprouts. They are finished when slightly browned and fork-tender. It's really that simple. Enjoy!

Vegan Moussaka

I really haven't thought about Moussaka in years, actually decades. The last time I had it in fact was at a pub in Oxford for heaven's sake. I do remember it being an amazing comfort food and that was exactly what I was searching to serve at last meal for months with Foix friends.

Once again I made enough to feed a small village and there was not a morsel left.

Enough for a 9" x 11" baking dish and 4-6 good appetites.

Ingredients

- 4 medium eggplant, cut into 1-2" cubes
- 6-8 large firm potatoes, cut in quarters lengthwise, steamed and peeled
- 4 Shallots peeled and diced
- 1 red onion, peeled and diced
- 1 ½ lbs of mushrooms, halved and sliced
- Fresh parsley, finely chopped
- 2 16 ounce cans of chopped tomatoes, or whole peeled tomatoes
- 1 tube or 28-ounce jar of tomato paste
- 2 tablespoons of maple syrup

Cashew cream

- 3 cups of raw cashews, soaked overnight or in hot water for an hour
- 1 14 ounce can of coconut cream or full-fat coconut milk— begin adding only ½ of the can then adjust to reach a thick cream of pouring consistency
- 1 cup of Almond milk
- 1 Veggie broth cube
- ½ cup of nutritional yeast
- Salt

- Pepper
- Red pepper flakes
- 1tbl of fresh or dried oregano
- 1 branch of thyme or 1 tea of dried thyme
- Cinnamon stick or 1 tea ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon Allspice
- ½ tea of freshly grated nutmeg
- A handful or two of pinenuts

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees
2. Toss eggplant with olive oil, lightly salt, spread on a baking sheet covered with parchment paper
3. Roast in the heated oven for 20-30 mins until pieces are tender but not falling apart
4. While the eggplant roasts, cover the bottom of a heavy dutch oven with olive oil and begin sauteing the shallots and onions over medium heat.
5. Add oregano, thyme, red pepper flakes, and allspice.
6. Add half of the mushrooms, cooking until brown, adding additional oil if necessary.
7. Remove cooked mushrooms to a plate and finish cooking the remainder, returning the others to the pan
8. Add chopped or whole tomatoes, using a wooden spoon to crush a bit, the tomato paste, maple syrup, the cinnamon stick, and salt and pepper to taste. Allow to gently simmer and thicken.
9. Begin assembling the moussaka by laying the bottom layer of potatoes, arranging them in the baking dish. Cover potato mixture with the eggplant, then pour over the tomato mushroom sauce.
10. Cover with foil, reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees and begin baking for 60 minutes.
11. While the moussaka bakes prepare the cashew cream topping. Combine all ingredients in a high-speed blender or use an immersion blender and process until very

smooth and creamy. Taste and adjust seasonings.

12. 15 minutes before moussaka is finished, remove the foil and pour a layer of the cashew cream over the top. Sprinkle with a bit of nutmeg and the pinenuts. Turn up the oven to 400 degrees and cook until the cream is set and beginning to brown.
 13. Allow moussaka to set for 15- 30 minutes before serving.
 14. Enjoy!
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Spiced Butternut Soup

The weather has turned cold here in Foix these final days of winter with a mix of snow and rain each day. This delightful and colorful soup brightened the dreary day and was delicious!

Ingredients

- 2 leeks, chopped fine
- 2 large kohlrabi peeled and cut into chunks
- 3 large potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- 1 large butternut squash, peeled and cut into chunks
- Chopped fresh or frozen spinach or kale
- Olive Oil
- 1 Tbl of freshly grated turmeric or 1 tea turmeric powder
- 1 Tbl of freshly grated ginger
- 1 tea cumin powder
- 2 cubes of vegetable broth cubes prepared with hot water

Directions

In a heavy dutch oven heat olive oil over medium heat, add leeks, saute slowly allowing them to gently soften and not

brown. Add spices, mix well, and broth. Remove from heat and set aside.

Steam each of the prepared vegetables (kohlrabi, potatoes, and squash) seperately until just fork tender, being very careful not to overcook.

Add to broth. Simmer gently for 15 mins.

Add chopped kale or spinach.

Adjust seasonings and liquid as needed.

Enjoy!

Spicy Cauliflower Snacks

I will admit I have a problem with these cauliflower snacks. I honestly can not stop myself from eating these and can easily consume an entire head of cauliflower in this fashion, on my own. I'm not saying I am proud of this fact, just sharing in case you have the same problem yourself. I did warn you.

Ingredients

One full head of cauliflower cut into bite-sized flowerets

2 cups of Besan flour, this is slightly different from the chickpea flour you might buy in your grocery store but either can be used

Filtered water

1-2 cups of mild cooking oil

A dash of Cayenne pepper, or more if you like

1 tsp Tumeric

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp Ground cumin

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp Ground coriander

1 tsp Salt and more to taste if needed.

Chutney store-bought or try this amazing Green Chutney

Directions

Pour the besan flour into a large mixing bowl. Add all of the spice and blend with a wire whisk. Next add water gradually, whisking until the mixture is the consistency of a pancake batter.

Let this set for at least 15 minutes and up to an hour if possible.

Add cauliflower pieces coating all well. You may need to add a bit more flour or water, adjusting the spices accordingly.

Heat oil in a large heavy skillet and when hot shallow fry the cauliflower pieces over medium heat. Be careful oil does not become too hot because these pieces need to cook all the way through, maybe 10-12 minutes total cooking time. Turn as they cook with tongs or a slotted utensil.

Lay cooked snacks on a tray lined with paper towels and keep warm in the oven until ready to serve.

Offer chutney alongside.

Please excuse me that these are instructions and not an exact recipe, my apologies up front if that makes it challenging for you. I trust you will forgive me once you have eaten your share of these.

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