

Berkshire Rack of Pork with Zucchini Pappardelle and Hominy

INGREDIENTS

For the Pork

1 4-bone Berkshire Pork Rack, frenched and cut into single bone chops

10 Juniper Berries

1 Bay leaf

1 T Black Peppercorns

1/4 cup Kosher Salt

1/4 cup Brown Sugar

1 head of garlic

For the Zucchini Pappardelle

Olive oil

4 medium zucchini, sliced lengthwise on a mandolin about the thickness of a quarter

½ cup chopped heirloom tomatoes

1 t chopped garlic

1T chopped fresh oregano

For the Hominy:

1# dried Hominy (we use Rancho Gordo in Napa, California)

1 bouquet garni of leeks and fresh herbs

DIRECTIONS

For the Pork

In a large plastic container (1 gal capacity), combine the brine ingredients with approx 1 cup of hot water. Stir until all sugar and salt are dissolved (the brine should be clear).

Cool down the brine with a little ice and 3 cups of cold water and submerge the pork rack. Cover and refrigerate overnight or at least 8 hours.

After the brine has worked its tenderizing magic, pull out the chops and dry with a paper towel. Season with Salt and Pepper and grill.

For the Zucchini Pappardelle

Heat a large skillet over medium-high on the stove top. Add the olive oil, then zucchini and sauté for a couple minutes until the zucchini starts to wilt. Toss, but be careful not to break up the zucchini. Add the heirloom tomato and oregano and cook for a couple more minutes. Add the garlic, some salt and pepper and toss until the garlic is fragrant.

For the Hominy

Soak the hominy in water overnight in the refrigerator. Drain the hominy and put in a large pot on the stove with plenty of fresh water. Make a bouquet garni, by tying with butcher string the green part of a leek around some savory fresh herbs (such as thyme, oregano, parsley or sage). Place in the water with the hominy, bring to a boil, reduce heat to simmer and cook until tender but not mushy (about 3 hours).

Remove the bouquet and stir in salt, pepper and some chopped fresh thyme or oregano.

(serves four)

specialty of:

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