



Chicken with lentils and ratatouille

By Shannon Bennett

1 hour Prep time

1 hour 30 minutes Cooking time

4 Servings Serves

INGREDIENTS

Confit chicken

4 chicken marylands
2 tablespoons eight spice
powder
3 sprigs thyme
1 bay leaf
1kg duck fat, melted

Chicken Sauce

2 litres chicken stock

250g cooked du puy lentils 1 tablespoon duck fat 100g flat pancetta, rind removed, finely cut into thin strips 1 tablespoon shallot, finely chopped 1 teaspoon garlic puree 3 teaspoons sherry vinegar 1 tablespoon brown chicken sauce 1 tablespoon chopped parsley 30g butter 1 carrot, peeled and finely diced 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

Lentilles "à la française"

Classic ratatouille

1/4 cup olive oil 1 onion, cut into small dice 1 large red capsicum, cut into small dice 1 large eggplant, cut into small dice 1 zucchini, cut into small dice, core discarded 5 cloves garlic, minced 2 tablespoons French salami or ham, diced 5 anchovies, crushed 1 x 425g can crushed tomatoes 2 tablespoons tomato paste 1 teaspoon Murray River Sea Salt and Pepper to taste

Eight spice powder

20g juniper berries 30g whole star anise 15g white peppercorns 15g cinnamon quills 15g cloves 1 pinch saffron threads 25g salt 10g cardamom pods

To serve

Watercress leaves

Eight spice powder

- 1. Toast the spices in a large pan over medium heat, Induction setting 5, for 1 minute or until fragrant.
- 2. Grind all the spices to a fine powder in a spice grinder or mortar and pestle. Cool.
- 3. Store remaining spices in an airtight container.

Confit chicken

- 1. Sprinkle each chicken leg with the eight spice powder and thyme. Rub all over and refrigerate for a minimum of 4 hours or overnight.
- 2. Wash and pat dry the chicken with kitchen paper.
- 3. Pre-heat oven on Fan Plus at 100°C.
- 4. Place the chicken in a medium Gourmet oven dish, cover chicken with duck fat, add bay leaf and cook on shelf

position 2 for 1 hour 15 minutes. When cooked, the meat should be almost falling off the bone.

Chicken sauce

1. Place chicken stock in a pan and bring to the boil. Reduce to medium heat, Induction setting 5-6 and cook until reduced to 100ml. The chicken sauce should be a golden colour and syrupy. Pour into a small glass bowl and set aside until required.

Lentilles "à la française"

- 1. Heat the duck fat in a pan on medium heat, Induction setting 5-6.
- 2. Add the pancetta and cook until crispy.
- 3. Add the shallots and the garlic and cook for 20 seconds. Be careful not to burn the shallots and garlic.
- 4. Add the lentils and deglaze with the sherry vinegar.
- 5. Add a tablespoon of brown chicken sauce. Add the butter and diced carrot. Stir through and keep warm (carrots should be crunchy for texture).

Ratatouille

- 1. Heat oil on medium heat, Induction setting 5-6 and fry the vegetables for 10 minutes.
- 2. Add the garlic, ham and anchovies, cook for a further 2 minutes.
- 3. Add the tomatoes, tomato paste and salt and continue to cook for a further 25 minutes.
- 4. Taste and adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper.

To serve

- 1. Wash and dry the watercress leaves.
- 2. Add the parsley to the warmed lentils just before serving.
- 3. Serve the ratatouille and lentils in bowls as individual portions, garnish the chicken with watercress. As an alternative, serve on platters as shared plates.

Hints and tips

- Eight spice powder can be stored for up to 3 months in an airtight container.
- The remaining chicken sauce can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator for one week or frozen in ice cube trays for later use.