

Crispy-skin duck



with spiced plum compote and parsnip puree Recipe by Marti Cuatt (The Infatuated Foodie)

INGREDIENTS

- 2 duck breasts
- Salt
- Pepper
- Five spice powder (optional)

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Season the duck breasts with salt and pepper and sprinkle with five spice powder if using.
- 2. Score the skin diagonally across the breast, being careful not to cut the meat. This will help the fat render out and give you a much leaner finish.
- 3. Place skin side down in a cold, heavy based pan and place onto a hotplate set on low-medium.

 Watch as it heats and adjust heat when it starts to sizzle. Make sure it doesn't burn.
- 4. Leave it like this for most of the cooking process about 20-minutes depending on thickness of the breast. Occasionally drain off excess fat if you wish. Cook until still pink in the middle.
- 5. Just before the duck has finished cooking, flip to sear the flesh side, then flip again to re-crisp.

 Transfer to a plate and let it rest in a warm place.



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PLUM COMPOTE

- 1 shallot finely chopped (approx 40 grams)
- 1 tbs olive oil
- 300g plums, stoned and cut into eighths
- 50ml red wine or port
- 2tsp balsamic vinegar
- 2tbs good quality honey
- 100ml chicken stock
- 2 star anise
- 1/2 cinnamon stick
- Pinch of all-spice
- Salt and pepper

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Heat the olive oil in a non-reactive pan and add shallots.
- 2. Gently fry until it's soft, but not browned.
- 3. Add the plums and honey and bring to a simmer, before pouring in the red wine and stock.
- 4. Add the spices, season with salt and pepper and simmer, semi-covered, until the sauce is jammy and thickened, but the plums are still holding their shape.
- 5. Remove from the heat and set it aside until ready.



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PUREE

- 200g peeled, sliced parsnip
- 120g peeled, chopped potato
- 100ml milk or cream or half/half
- Sprig or two of thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 6 peppercorns
- 1 generous tsp of butter
- Salt and pepper to season

PLATING UP:

Spoon some of the puree onto a plate and top with a sliced duck breast. Arrange plum quarters to the side and drizzle some of the juice over. Serve with greens. Enjoy!

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Place the parsnips into one pan and the potatoes in another, cover both with cold, salted water and bring to the boil. They will be cooked at different times.
- 2. When cooked, drain the water and let dry, then place into one pan.
- 3. Bring the cream/milk and herbs to just below boiling point and remove from the heat.
- 4. Set aside for the flavours to infuse, then remove or strain out the herbs.
- 5. Transfer the parsnip and potato to a small food processor and whizz up until smooth. Add butter, then start adding the milk a little at a time (you may not need all of it! Just stop at a good consistency for spooning onto a plate).
- 6. If you want to get really cheffy, pass through a sieve for a smooth finish.



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