

Cabbage Dumplings Stuffed with Pork, Chorizo, Pine Nuts, and and Raisins (Farcellets de Col)

1 large whole head green cabbage (about 2 pounds), cored

For the filling:

1 cup homemade bread crumbs (see P. 10)

1/2 cup milk

1 tablespoon olive oil

1/4 pound pancetta, sliced medium thick and cut into strips

3/4 pound medium-ground pork

One 3– or 4 ounce firm, lean chorizo or linguica sausage (or other spicy pork sausage with paprika), casing removed, crumbled

1 small onion, finely chopped

1/4 cup (1.5 ounces) pine nuts

1/4 cup dark raisins

1 egg, beaten

1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, or to taste

Salt to taste, if necessary

For the sauce:

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 onion, chopped

2 pounds tomatoes, unpeeled, chopped

1 cup dry white wine

1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, or to taste

As a garnish:

1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh parsley leaves

1/4 cup (1.5 ounces) pine nuts, toasted (see p. 11)

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil and cook cabbage for 20 minutes, covered; it should be very tender, not crisp. Turn cabbage upside down to drain. Separate leaves and spread them on a cloth.

To prepare the filling: In a large bowl, soak bread in milk. Heat oil in a large skillet and sauté pancetta for 5 minutes over low heat. Add pork, chorizo, and onion; cook for 15 minutes. With a slotted spoon, add to bowl with bread; discard fat in the pan. Stir in pine nuts, raisins, egg, and pepper. Taste for seasoning.

Cup a cabbage leaf in your hand and scoop about 1/4 cup filling into it. Fold cabbage around filling, squeezing and shaping it into a ball. Divide filling among cabbage leaves (patch smaller leaves together). Place completed dumplings, seam side down, in one layer in a large clay casserole or baking dish.

To prepare the sauce: Preheat oven to 350 F. Heat oil in a large skillet and sauté onion over low heat for 5 minutes. Add tomatoes; cook over medium heat for 10 minutes. Add 1/2 cup wine, increase heat, and cook until dry. Add salt and pepper, and taste for seasoning. Puree in a blender or food processor.

Pour sauce and remaining 1/2 cup wine over dumplings; sprinkle with parsley and pine nuts. Bake in 350 F oven for 40 minutes. Serve warm.

Recipe from:

The Catalan Country Kitchen, pg 48

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