

Filet de Bou amb Fruites Seques

(Filet Mignon with Dried Figs, Apricots and Prunes in a Cream Brandy Sauce)

> Recipe from: The Catalan Country Kitchen, page 91 by Marimar Torres

Start preparation 3 hours ahead, by soaking dried fruits in water.

Serves 6

6 dried figs (about 3 oz)
18 dried apricots (about 3 oz)
12 pitted prunes (about 3 oz)
Six 3- to 4-ounce slices of beef tenderloin, each about 1/2-inch thick, cut from the center of the loin
1 tablespoon crushed green peppercorns

1-1/2 teaspoons salt2 tablespoons butter1/2 cup full-bodied brandy1 cup heavy cream2 cups veal or beef stock

Place figs, apricots, and prunes in a saucepan and cover with boiling water. Let them soak for 2 or 3 hours.

Meanwhile, cut away fat from sides of beef steaks and tie double string around each piece to give it a round shape. Cover both sides of the steaks with peppercorns and sprinkle them with 1 teaspoon salt. Let them sit, unrefrigerated, for an hour.

Remove fruits from soaking water and cut them into ¼-inch slices. Over medium-high heat reduce liquid in saucepan to 1/3 cup.

In a skillet large enough to hold all of the steaks, heat butter and, over medium-high heat, sauté them for 1 minute on each side. Add brandy and flambé. Set steaks aside on a serving platter, remove strings, and keep warm. Add fruits, reduced liquid in saucepan, cream and veal or beef stock to the skillet. Increase heat and reduce sauce by one third, or to desired consistency. Add remaining ¹/₂ teaspoon salt or to taste. Pour sauce with fruits over steaks and serve immediately.