

Codorniz con Manzanas (Quail with Apples and Raisins)

Serves 4

2 ounces raisins, preferably a mix of dark and golden

1/2 cup full-bodied brandy

8 quail, trussed

3/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 medium carrot, finely chopped

1 large onion, finely chopped

1 large leek, finely chopped, with about one-third of green part

1 small tender celery stalk, with leaves, finely chopped

3 tablespoons butter

1 pound tart apples (Gravenstein, Pippin, or Granny Smith),

peeled and cut in wedges

1/2 cup sugar

2-1/2 cups homemade Chicken Stock

1-1/2 cups dry white wine

Soak raisins in brandy for at least 30 minutes.

Pat quail dry and season with 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper. In a large, lidded flameproof casserole, heat olive oil and quickly brown quail over medium-high heat. Remove from casserole and set aside. Add carrot, onion, leek, and celery to the casserole; scrape bottom with a spatula to release browned particles and cook over low heat for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat butter in a medium skillet and sauté apple wedges over medium heat for 5 minutes, stirring. Add sugar, increase heat to medium-high, and cook for about 5 minutes, turning apples until they caramelize. Add raisins with brandy and when hot, flambé. Cook, shaking pan, for 2-5 minutes, or until dry. Set aside.

Add stock and wine to casserole, and season with remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Bring to a boil, add quail, turn heat down to low, cover, and simmer for 15 minutes. Transfer quail to a serving platter, arrange raisins and apples around them, and keep warm. Transfer sauce in casserole to a blender and purée. Strain through a medium sieve into skillet where apples were cooked. Increase heat to high and cook, stirring, until reduced to about 1 or 2 cups. Pour sauce over quail and serve warm.

Wine Pairing:Marimar Estate La Masía Pinot Noir

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