THE BEST OF BETTY SAW

The Best of Betty Saw is a collection of 150 time-tested recipes from Betty Saw, the doyen of Malaysian cooking.

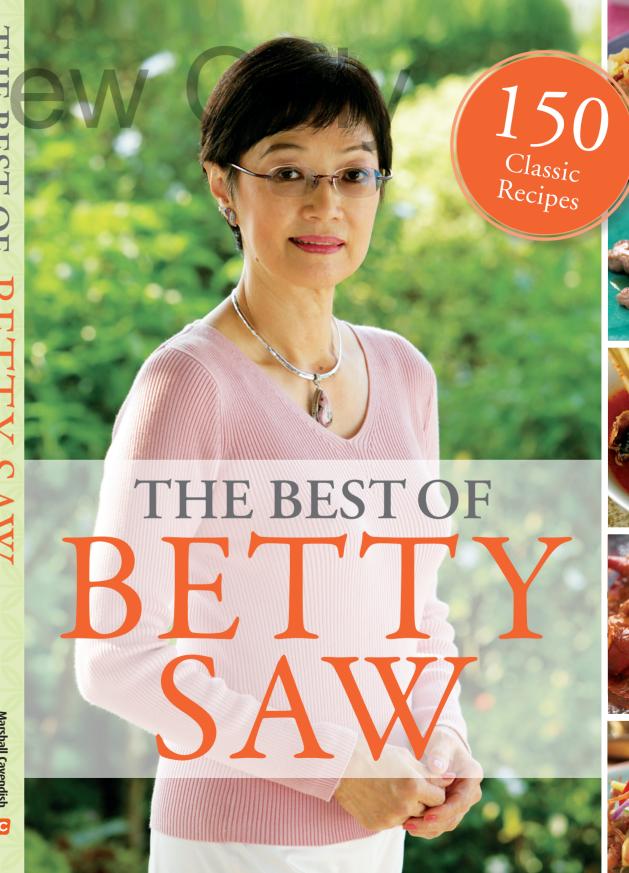
Find sumptuous staples and family favourites such as steamed herbal winter melon soup, Nyonya fish head curry and Malaysian rendang as well as savoury snacks and sweet delicacies including kuih serimuka, char siew bao, pineapple cup tarts and mud cupcakes.

Discover the numerous delights and draw inspiration from Betty Saw as you embark on your own culinary journey. With beautiful photographs and invaluable cooking and preparation tips, The Best of Betty Saw makes an ideal gift and is an absolute must-have for every home cook.



Betty Saw is a veteran chef with more than 30 years of experience. A well-loved and respected food consultant, Betty has become a household name over the years. She has appeared on a number of television programmes and is a prolific author of more than 15 cookbook titles, including The Best of Malaysian Cooking, Betty Saw's Best Noodle Recipes, The Asian Fish Cookbook, Asian Retro Food, The Asian Tofu Cookbook, Cupcakes and Cookies.









For Review Only















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Fragrant Herb Rice (Nasi Ulam) Serves 7-8 INGREDIENTS METHOD Fragrant Yam Rice

Chubb mackerel 3, grilled, deboned and flesh ground

Turmeric leaves 5, finely sliced Polygonum leaves 4 sprigs, finely sliced Basil leaves 4 stalks, finely sliced Thai sweet basil 5 stalks, finely sliced Watercress 4 stalks, finely sliced Lesser galangal leaves 3, finely sliced Kaffir lime leaves 3, finely sliced Lettuce leaves 3, finely sliced Cashew nut leaves (optional) 4, finely sliced Lemon grass 2 stalks, tender central portion finely sliced

Shallots 6, peeled and finely sliced Torch ginger flower 1, finely sliced Green chillies 3, finely sliced Grated skinned coconut ¹/₂, dry-roasted Large lime 1, juice extracted Salt 1 tsp Cooked rice 1.5 kg (3 lb $4^{1}/_{2}$ oz)

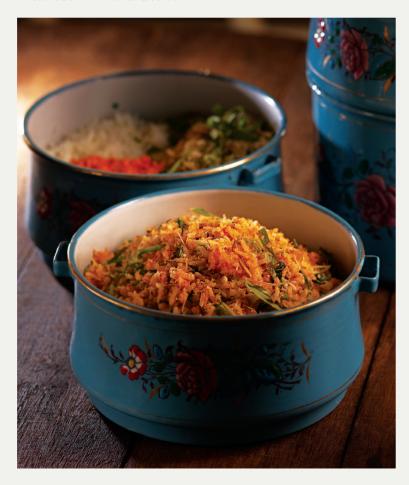
Sambal

Red chillies 10 Shallots 5, peeled Ginger 1.25-cm (1/2-in) knob, peeled Coconut cream 250 ml (8 fl oz), from 1 grated skinned coconut and sufficient water

Lemon grass 1 stalk, lightly crushed Salt ¹/₄ tsp

Tamarind pulp (asam Jawa) 1 tsp, mixed with 2 Tbsp water and strained

- 1. Prepare sambal. Blend chillies, shallots and ginger until fine. Combine ground ingredients with coconut cream, lemon grass, salt and tamarind juice and simmer over low heat. Stir until sauce is thick and oil separates. Set aside.
- 2. Combine ground fish with the finely sliced ingredients and roasted grated coconut.
- 3. Heat a wok without oil. When hot, turn off heat and put in combined fish and sliced ingredients, lime juice and salt. Mix well. Transfer to a serving dish.
- 4. To serve *nasi ulam*, ladle a portion of rice onto a plate, top with required amount of combined fish and sliced ingredients and sambal. Mix well and serve.



Chicken meat 300 g $(10^{1}/_{2} \text{ oz})$, cut into 2.5-cm (1-in) pieces

Cooking oil 3 Tbsp + more for deep-frying Yam 350 g (12 oz), cut into 1.5-cm ($^{3}/_{4}$ -in) cubes

Shallots 6, peeled and sliced Dried prawns (shrimps) $60 \text{ g} (2^{1}/_{4} \text{ oz})$, soaked for 15 minutes and drained Rice 300 g (10¹/₂ oz), washed and drained Light soy sauce 2 tsp

Chicken stock (see page 11) 875 ml (28 fl oz)

Spring onion (scallion) 1, chopped Red chilli 1, sliced

Seasoning

Salt 1/2 tsp Sugar 1/2 tsp Ground white pepper ¹/₄ tsp Light soy sauce 1 tsp Dark soy sauce 1/2 tsp Sesame oil 1 tsp Chinese rice wine (Shaoxing) 1 tsp Cornflour (cornstarch) 1 tsp

- Marinate chicken with combined seasoning ingredients and set aside.
- 2. Heat oil for deep-frying and fry yam cubes for 8–10 minutes until just cooked. Drain from oil and set aside.
- 3. Using the same oil, fry shallots until golden. Drain and set aside for garnishing.
- 4. Remove all but 3 Tbsp oil and stir-fry prawns until fragrant. Dish out and set aside.
- 5. Stir-fry rice in the same oil for 1–2 minutes. Stir in light soy sauce. Remove from heat and transfer rice to a rice cooker. Pour in chicken stock and switch on rice cooker to cook rice.
- 6. When stock comes to a boil, add vam and chicken. Let rice cook until done. Garnish with shallot crisps and spring onion before serving.





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Potato, Carrot and Onion Soup Serves 4-5 INGREDIENTS Chicken or anchovy stock (see page 11) METHOD 1 Reing skirks METHOD 1 Reing skirks

Chicken or anchovy stock (see page 11) 750 ml (24 fl oz), strained Medium potato 1, diced Medium carrot 1/2, diced Onion 1, peeled and diced Canned button mushrooms 5, diced Tomato 1, diced Salt 1/2 tsp Ground white pepper 1/2 tsp Spring onion (scallion) 1, chopped Coriander leaves (cilantro) 2 sprigs, chopped

- 1. Bring chicken or anchovy stock to the boil. Put in potatoes, carrot, and onion and simmer over medium heat for 5 minutes.
- 2. Putin mushrooms, tomato, salt and pepper and continue to simmer for 8–10 minutes or until potatoes and carrots are soft.
- 3. Serve hot sprinkled with spring onion and coriander leaves.

A hearty and nutritious home-style soup. Soups play an integral part in Chinese meals. The soup is consumed as the meal progresses, and acts as a palate cleanser.



Fish fillets (garfish, tuna or eel) 250 g (9 oz) Salt 1 tsp Ground white pepper ¹/₄ tsp Lime juice 1 Tbsp Cooking oil 1 Tbsp Garlic 3 cloves, finely chopped Lemon grass 2 stalks, crushed Bird's eye chillies 5, left whole Ground dried chillies 2 tsp Ginger 2-cm (3/4-in) knob, peeled and crushed Chicken stock (see page 11) 400 ml (13 fl oz)

Fish sauce 1¹/₂ Tbsp Kaffir lime leaves 4, finely sliced Salt to taste

- If using garfish or tuna, cut into 5-cm (2-in) cubes or desired serving size. If using eel, cut into 3-cm $(1^{1}/_{2}$ -in) wide pieces. Wash and drain.
- 2. Season fish pieces with salt, pepper and lime juice. Set aside.
- 3. Heat oil in a medium-sized saucepan. Stir-fry garlic and lemon grass. Add bird's eye chillies, ground dried chillies and ginger. Cook for 1 minute.
- 4. Pour in chicken stock and bring to the boil. Add fish sauce and fish pieces. Allow to boil over medium-low heat for 5 minutes.
- 5. Sprinkle in kaffir lime leaves; reserve some for garnishing if desired. Adjust to taste with salt and serve.

NOTE

Cuttlefish and prawns can be used instead of fish.







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Stuffed Tofu Puffs with Mixed Vegetables Serves 4-5

INGREDIENTS

Fried tofu puffs 5 pieces Cooking oil for deep-frying Cucumber 1, sliced Tomatoes 2, sliced

Filling

Cooking oil 1 Tbsp Garlic 3 cloves, peeled and minced Shallots 2, peeled and finely sliced Shiitake mushrooms 3, about 60 g $(2^{1}/4 \text{ oz})$, diced small

Long (snake) beans 50 g (1²/₃ oz), diced Carrots 75 g ($2^{3}/_{5}$ oz), peeled, diced small and parboiled

Bean sprouts $100 \text{ g} (3^{1}/_{2} \text{ oz})$ Cornflour (cornstarch) 1 tsp, mixed with 2 Tbsp water

Spring onion (scallion) 1/2, chopped Coriander (cilantro) leaves 1/2 sprig, chopped

Seasoning

Salt 1/2 tsp Sugar 1 tsp Light soy sauce 1 tsp Oyster sauce 1 tsp Ground white pepper 1/4 tsp

Sweet soy sauce chilli dip

Red chillies 3, large Indonesian sweet soy sauce 1 Tbsp Lemon or lime juice 1 tsp Salt a pinch

- 1. Bring a saucepan of water to the boil and scald tofu puffs for a few seconds to remove excess oil. Drain thoroughly.
- 2. Heat oil and deep-fry tofu puffs until crisp. Drain on absorbent kitchen paper.
- 3. Prepare filling. Heat oil in a wok and lightly brown garlic and shallots. Add mushrooms and stir-fry for 1 minute. Add long beans and cook for 30 seconds. Add carrots and lastly bean sprouts. Combine seasoning ingredients and add to wok. Toss well.
- 4. Thicken with cornflour mixture. Remove from heat and stir. Add chopped spring onion and coriander. Dish out and use as required.
- 5. Combine ingredients and blend in a mini food blender (processor) until fine. Serve with stuffed tofu puffs.
- 6. When cool, slice each tofu puff diagonally to obtain two triangles. Slit each piece without cutting through and stuff with the filling.
- 7. Arrange on a serving dish garnished with cucumber and tomato slices. Serve with sweet soy sauce chilli dip.
- 8. Cut each tofu puff into 9 even pieces and place on the cucumbers. Pour peanut sauce over tofu puffs and serve immediately.





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Baked Fish in Banana Leaf Serves 4-6 INGREDIENTS METHOD MET

Whole fish (black promfret or sea bass) 1, about 600 g (1 $lb 5^{1}/_{2} oz$)

Salt 1 tsp

Ground white pepper 1/4 tsp

Sunflower oil 3 Tbsp

Kalamansi lime juice 1 Tbsp

Dark soy sauce 1 Tbsp

Banana leaves 1–2, greased with a little cooking oil

Bamboo toothpicks or cocktail sticks Red chilli 1, seeded and julienned, for garnishing

Thai sweet basil for garnishing

Ingredients to be finely ground

Red chillies 5, seeded

Candlenuts 5

Shallots 10, peeled

Lemon grass 2 stalks, sliced

Dried prawn (shrimp) paste (belacan)

granules 2 tsp

Chilli powder 1 tsp

Kaffir lime leaves 2

Salt 1 tsp

Sugar $1^{1}/_{2}$ tsp

- 1. With knife held at an angle, make 2 diagonal cuts on each side of fish. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.
- 2. Heat oil in a wok. Stir-fry ground ingredients over low heat until aromatic, takes 5-7 minutes.
- 3. Stir in lime juice and soy sauce. Transfer to a small bowl and leave for a while to cool.
- 4. Spread fried ground ingredients over fish, smearing into slits and stomach cavity.
- 5. Wrap fish with banana leaves and secure tightly with bamboo toothpicks or cocktail sticks.
- 6. Bake in an oven preheated to 175°C (350°F) for 15–20 minutes.
- 7. Garnish and serve hot with rice.

NOTE

For variation, this dish can be prepared with golden trevally or threadfin trevally.



Medium horse mackerel 4–6, slit along both sides of back bone

Salt 1 tsp

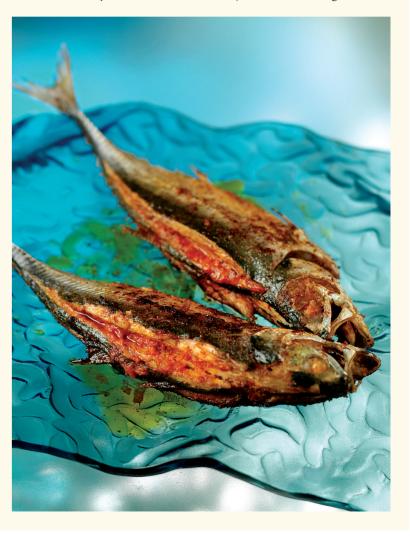
Tamarind pulp (asam Jawa) 1 tsp, mixed with 2 Tbsp water and strained Kaffir lime leaves 2, finely sliced Cooking oil for shallow-frying

Ingredients to be finely ground

Shallots 6-8, peeled Garlic 3 cloves, peeled Dried prawn (shrimp) paste (belacan) $2.5 \times 2.5 \times 1$ -cm $(1 \times 1 \times 1/2$ -in) piece Lemon grass 2 stalks Dried chillies 5-6, seeded and soaked Fresh chillies 4, seeded Turmeric 5-cm (2-in) knob, peeled Salt 1/2 tsp Cooking oil 2 Tbsp

METHOD

- Rub fish with salt and set aside.
- 2. Place all to-be-ground ingredients into a food blender (processor). Add 2 Tbsp water or more if required and blend until fine.
- 3. Combine ground ingredients and tamarind juice in a saucepan. Over low heat, stir for 8–10 minutes or until fragrant.
- 4. Stir in lime leaves, then remove from heat and allow sambal (chilli paste) to cool. Stuff fish, including stomach cavity, with sambal.
- 5. Heat sufficient oil for shallow-frying in a wok. Lower in fish and cover wok. Fry fish on both sides until just cooked through.





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Braised Pot Pourri Serves 8-10

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INGREDIENTS

Pork ribs 800 g (1¹/₂ lbs), cut into 5-cm (2-in) lengths

Belly pork 500 g (1 lb $^{1}/_{2}$ oz), skinned and cut into 0.5 x 5-cm ($^{1}/_{4}$ x 2-in) slices

Chinese sausages 4 pieces, sliced diagonally Cooking oil 1 Tbsp

Garlic 24 cloves, skinned and kept whole Shallots 2, sliced

Dried Chinese mushrooms 8–10, soaked and halved

Cloud-ear fungus 20 pieces, soaked Chinese rice wine *(Shaoxing)* 1 Tbsp Pre-fried chicken feet 8–10 pairs Sea cucumber 3 pieces, rinsed and cut into 5-cm (2-in) pieces

Cornflour (cornstarch) 2 tsp mixed with 2 Tbsp water

Spring onions (scallions) 2, chopped Coriander leaves (cilantro) 2 sprigs, chopped

Seasoning Ingredients A

Light soy sauce 1 Tbsp Thick soy sauce ¹/₂ Tbsp Oyster sauce 1 Tbsp Salt ¹/₂ tsp Ground white pepper ¹/₄ tsp Sugar 1 tsp

Seasoning Ingredients B

Light soy sauce ¹/₂ Tbsp Thick soy sauce 1 tsp Sugar 1 tsp Salt ¹/₂ tsp Ground white pepper ¹/₄ tsp

Sauce

Chicken stock (see page 11) or water 500 ml (16 fl oz) Light soy sauce $^{1}/_{2}$ Tbsp Thick soy sauce 1 tsp Salt $^{1}/_{2}$ tsp

Ground white pepper ¹/₄ tsp Sugar 1 tsp

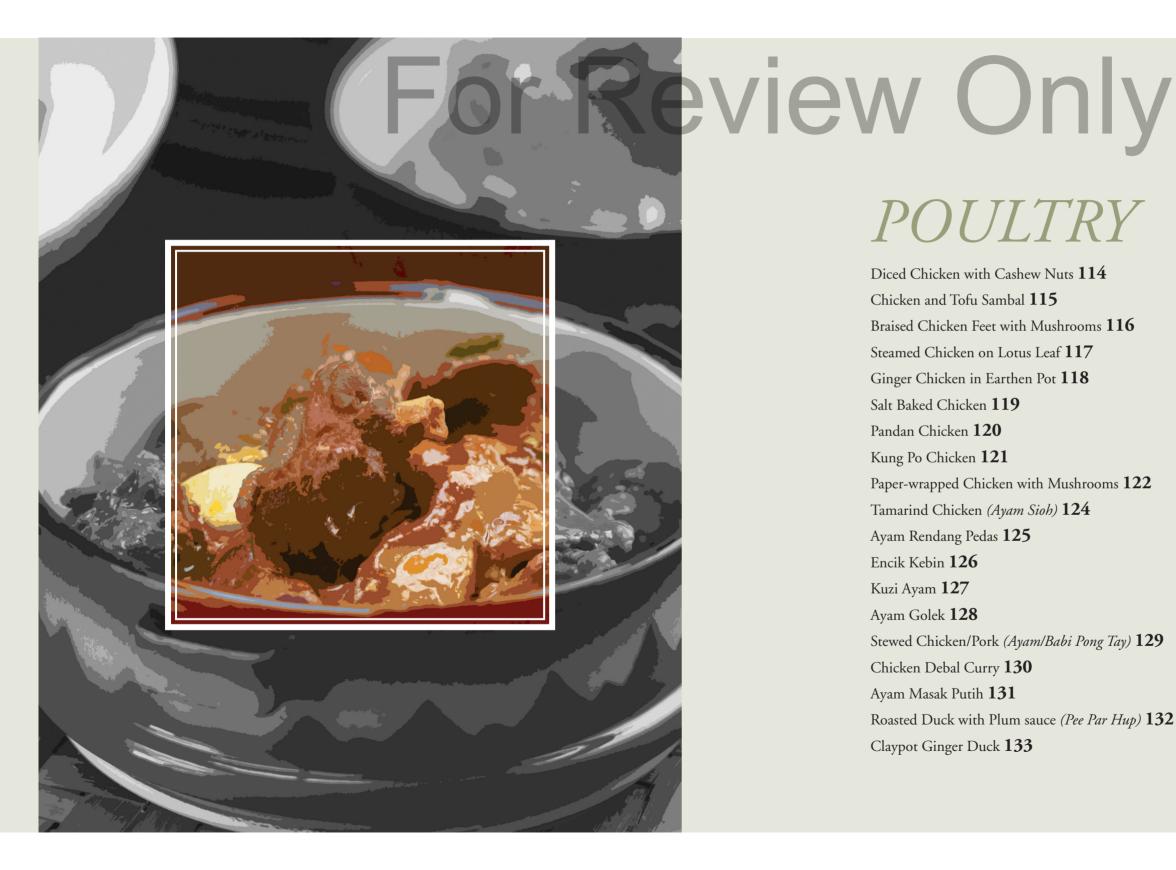
METHOD

- 1. Marinate ribs with seasoning ingredients A and belly pork with seasoning ingredients B for at least 30 minutes.
- 2. Heat a saucepan without oil until hot. Stir-fry pork belly for about 5 minutes until liquid evaporates. Remove pork and set aside.
- 3. Put in sausages and stir-fry until lightly browned and fragrant, about 3 minutes. Dish out and set aside.
- 4. Reheat a clean saucepan with 1 Tbsp oil and lightly brown garlic and shallots. Add dried mushrooms and toss 1 minutes. Put in the cloud-ear fungus and stir-fry for a few seconds. Drizzle in Chinese rice wine. Add pork ribs, chicken feet and fry for 2 minutes.
- 5. Pour in sauce ingredients and bring to the boil. Put in sea cucumber and fried belly pork. Reduce heat and simmer for 30–45 minutes or until ribs are tender and sauce is thickened.
- 6. Put in Chinese sausages. Thicken with cornflour mixture. Lastly stir in spring onion and coriander leaves.

NOTE

A rich stew that goes well with rice. It tastes even better the next day after reheating.





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Paper-wrapped Chicken with Mushrooms Serves 10 CV CVI METHOD

INGREDIENTS

Chicken 1, about 1.25 kg (2 lb 10 oz), cut into 10 large pieces

Spring onion (scallion) 1, chopped

Coriander leaves (cilantro) 2 sprigs, chopped Dried Chinese mushrooms 20, soaked to soften

Oyster sauce 1 Tbsp

Sugar 1/2 tsp

Ground white pepper 1/2 tsp

Sesame oil 1/2 tsp

Dried scallops 2, crushed

Cooking oil 3 Tbsp + more for deep-frying Ginger 2.5-cm (1-in) knob, peeled and crushed

Chicken stock (see page 11) 125 ml (4 fl oz) or water

Greaseproof paper 5 sheets, folded into ten 10 x 15-cm (4 x 6-in) bags

Corn oil 1 Tbsp, mixed with 1 tsp sesame oil Cucumber slices as needed

Seasoning

Salt 1/2 tsp

Ground white pepper 1/2 tsp

Five-spice powder 1/2 tsp

Sugar 1 tsp

Oyster sauce 2 Tbsp

Brandy 1 Tbsp

Ginger juice ¹/₂ Tbsp

Light soy sauce 1/2 Tbsp

Sesame oil ¹/₂ Tbsp

Cornflour (cornstarch) 1 Tbsp

- 1. Marinate chicken pieces in a bowl with combined seasoning ingredients and chopped spring onion and coriander. Leave for 3 hours or overnight in the refrigerator.
- 2. Marinate mushrooms with oyster sauce, sugar, pepper and sesame oil for at least 1 hour.
- 3. Steam dried scallops for 15 minutes or until soft. Shred with fingers and set aside.
- 4. Heat cooking oil in a wok and fry ginger for 30 seconds. Put in dried scallops and toss for a few seconds. Add marinated mushrooms and stir-fry for 1 minute. Pour in chicken stock or water and simmer over low heat for 8-10 minutes. Remove and
- 5. Lightly grease the inside of each paper bag with corn oil and sesame oil mixture. Put a piece of chicken and two pieces of marinated mushrooms into each bag. Fold and seal the opening with a stapler.
- 6. Heat oil for deep-frying in a wok. Deep-fry paper parcels for 7–8 minutes. Remove and drain.
- 7. Arrange parcels on a serving dish and garnish with cucumber slices.





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Siew Mai Makes 40

alar type of dim sum.

Property 17 Siew mai are steamed meat dumplings and are a popular type of dim sum.

INGREDIENTS

Wanton (dumpling) skins 150 g (5 oz), 7.5-cm (3-in) square pieces Cooked crab roe 1 Tbsp

Filling

Prawns (shrimps) 240 g (81/2 oz), peeled, deveined and well minced Fatty pork 240 g (8¹/₂ oz), minced Cooked crabmeat 120 g (4¹/₄ oz) Salt 1 tsp Sesame oil ¹/₂ tsp Ground white pepper a pinch

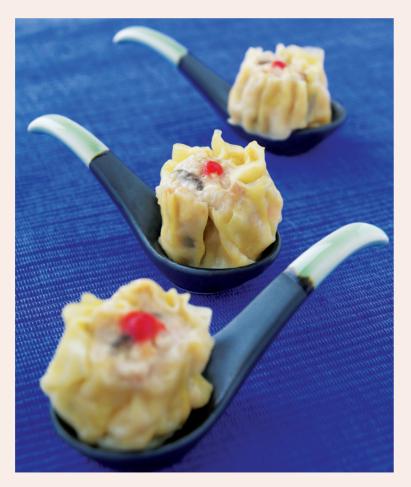
Egg white 1 Cornflour (cornstarch) 1¹/₂ Tbsp Corn oil 1 Tbsp

Dried Chinese mushrooms 2, soaked, stems discarded and minced Water chestnuts 3, peeled and minced

Spring onion (scallion) 1, thinly sliced

METHOD

- 1. Combine prawns, pork and crabmeat. Season with salt, sesame seed oil, pepper and egg white. Stir in cornflour and corn oil. Beat mixture with a spoon.
- 2. Mix in mushrooms, water chestnuts and spring onion. Refrigerate for 1 hour.
- 3. Cut wanton skins into 7.5-cm (3-in) rounds with cutter. Put 2 tsp filling on each centre. Gather edges of skin and smooth toward the top, pleating will occur naturally.
- 4. Place in greased bamboo baskets. Decorate with crab roe on top. Steam for 12 minutes.



Small/medium prawns (shrimps) 600 g $(1 \text{ lb } 5^{1}/_{3} \text{ oz})$

Light soy sauce 2 tsp

Sesame oil 1 tsp

Salt 1/2 tsp

Sugar ¹/₂ tsp

Ground white pepper a pinch

Egg white 1/2

Cornflour (cornstarch) 1 tsp

Spring onions (scallions) 2, finely sliced Coriander leaves (cilantro) 1 sprig, finely

sliced

Water chestnuts 4, peeled and minced Bread 11/2 loaves, 1-day old and cut into very small cubes

Cooking oil for deep-frying

Chilli sauce

Large red chillies 12, seeded Garlic 3 cloves, peeled Water 225 ml (71/5 fl oz) Tomato sauce 2 Tbsp Vinegar 1/2 Tbsp Sugar ¹/₂ Tbsp Salt 1/4 tsp Cooking oil 1 Tbsp

- Peel and wash prawns. Dry with a tea towel. Mince to a fine paste.
- 2. Season with soy sauce, sesame seed oil, salt, sugar, pepper, egg white and cornflour. Stir in spring onions, coriander and water chestnuts. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
- 3. Prepare chilli sauce. Blend chillies, garlic and water into a fine paste. Transfer to a small saucepan.
- 4. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to the boil. When cool, store in glass jars at room temperature.
- 5. Drop teaspoonfuls of mixture onto bread cubes. Form bread-coated balls. Deep-fry over low heat until golden. Serve with chilli sauce.





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Pumpkin Seed Spice Cupcakes with Lime Glaze Icing

An exciting mix of spice and citrus flavours with a crunchy topping.

INGREDIENTS

Plain (all-purpose) flour 125 g $(4^{1}/_{2} \text{ oz})$

Cinnamon powder ³/₄ tsp

All-spice powder ³/₄ tsp

Ground nutmeg 3/4 tsp

Baking powder ¹/₂ tsp

Baking soda ¹/₂ tsp

Butter 125 g $(4^{1}/_{2} \text{ oz})$

Castor (superfine) sugar 90 g (3 oz)

Medium eggs 2, 60 g (2¹/₄ oz) each, separated

Vanilla essence ¹/₂ tsp

Salt 1/2 tsp

Natural yoghurt or sour cream 75 ml $(2^2/_5 \text{ fl oz})$

Pumpkin seeds 45 g (1¹/₂ oz), lightly toasted and coarsely chopped

Lime glaze icing

Icing (confectioners') sugar $60 \text{ g } (2^1/_4 \text{ oz})$, sifted

Kalamansi juice 1 Tbsp

Topping

Extra toasted pumpkin seeds

Large paper cases 12, 4.5 cm base x 3.5-cm height $(1^4/_5-1^2/_5-in)$

METHOD

- 1. Line a 12-hole muffin pan with paper cases.
- 2. Sift plain flour, cinnamon, all-spice powder, nutmeg, baking powder and baking soda together.
- 3. Cream together butter and castor sugar in bowl of electric mixer until pale and fluffy. Beat in egg yolks, one at a time, and then beat in vanilla essence.
- 4. On very low speed, mix in sifted ingredients and salt, alternating with yoghurt or sour cream.
- 5. Whisk egg whites in separate bowl until just stiff. Then gently fold into main mixture, half at a time. Mix in pumpkin seeds.
- 6. Spoon mixture evenly into the prepared cases and smoothen the surfaces with a teaspoon.
- 7. Bake in preheated oven at 175°C (350°F) for 25 minutes or until cooked through when tested with a wooden skewer.
- 8. Cool cupcakes in pan.
- 9. Prepare lime glaze icing by placing icing sugar in a mixing bowl. Heat the kalamansi juice in a microwave oven on high for 15–20 seconds. Stir into icing sugar until smooth. Use glaze immediately as it will set very quickly.
- 10. Drizzle lime glaze onto cakes and arrange a few pumpkin seeds in the shape of a flower with a pink soft sweet centre.

NOTE

Pumpkin seeds brown very quickly. Keep an eye on them while to asting. It will only take about 5 minutes in the oven at 175°C (350°F).

If candied nutmeg is not available, decorate with toasted pumpkin seeds instead.

