

Caramba!

Better Late Than Never With These Mexican Dishes

Manana has always been one of Susie's favorite words and generally her downfall — always putting off to tomorrow what should have been done yesterday.

For a long time we've thought you'd like a little Mexican cookery for the holiday season but it wasn't until someone gave Susie two gay casseroles or whatever they are called in Mexican, and a pair of baskets for bread sticks, that she went into action.

Here's one with rice and serves six generously.

Mexican Olla Podrida
3 cups boiled rice
1 1/2 cups fried onions
5 cups grated American cheese
1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup pimientos, chopped fine
2 cups seasoned stewed tomatoes
Cover the bottom of a well buttered casserole with rice. Sprinkle on a layer of fried onions, then a layer of cheese, pimientos and tomatoes. Dot with butter and continue until all is used, making the last layer of rice and cheese. Bake covered for one hour in a moderate oven, 350 degrees, removing the cover the last 15 minutes to brown the top.

One of the nicest points in favor of Mexican food is that it is almost always prepared as a main dish—you know, the kind you just have to have a green salad with for a New Year's supper. This one calling for a pound of round steak for instance and don't forget to lay in Spice Islands oregano before you start. It's the flavor you're after:

Beef Stew (Mexican)
1 lb. top round steak, cut in small pieces.
2 cups stock (or boiling water with bouillon cube)
1 large onion, minced
1/2 green pepper, minced.
Bacon fat
1/2 cup stewed tomatoes or -
1 T. tomato paste.
1 tea. chili sauce, or a little chili powder
1 tea. oregano
Salt and pepper

Fry onion and pepper in bacon fat; add meat and brown well. Add stock, season to taste and cook slowly in a covered pan or transfer to a casserole in a slow oven. Add tomatoes, oregano, and chili when nearly ready. It should cook at least 2 hours or until tender (oregano is a dried, wild marjoram. It is also a dried herb from Mexico, a variety of sage. Nice to have on the shelf and call Susie if you can't find it.)
And now with a wish of her new Christmas serape, Susie gives you:

Ternera En Rajas
This is veal cooked Mexican style and calls for veal round with lemon, cheese, rice and pimiento.

Wipe with a damp cloth and cut 3 pounds of veal round into length strips 1/2 inch wide. First, however, you have asked the butcher to cut the round 1/2 inch thick. Now:

Place the veal in a bowl and over it pour the juice of 2 lemons. Let it all stand for 10 minutes but turn it now and then.

In a flat dish combine 1 1/2 cups fine bread crumbs, 1/2 cup minced parsley, 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese and 1 tea. salt.

In a second plate whisk up 2 eggs until they have a good head of foam. Stir in 4 T. water.

Roll the veal strips, a few at a time, in crumb mixture, then in egg and again in crumbs. Turn the oven on at 350 at this point.
Take a medium sized frying pan and heat 1/2 cup salad oil. Sauté the breaded veal strips, two or three at a time, in hot oil until golden brown on all sides. Watch the pan and add more oil if you need it. Drain the browned veal strips on paper and then place in shallow casserole. Bake 20 minutes, or until the meat is tender and easily pierced.

While the veal bakes, cook until tender in boiling salted water 1 cup of washed rice — about 2 cups water and 1 tea. salt to 1 cup of rice is the proportion. Drain rice if necessary, season with 3 T. butter, a dash of salt and pepper. Arrange a ring of rice in a serving dish and put veal in the center. Decorate with cubes or strips of pimiento and serve piping hot.

What sort of a vegetable to serve with a Mexican meat dish? How about:

Calabazas Con Elote
This is Italian squash. Combine with corn and you have it.

Pour about 4 T. salad oil in a frying pan and add 1 medium sized onion, chopped pretty fine. Sauté for three minutes or until yellow and tender. Stir in 1 pound or about 4 medium zucchini squashes, washed and cut in 1/2 inch rings. Don't peel. Sauté for 5 minutes on medium heat, turning often.

Add 1 can whole kernel corn, and 3 medium-size tomatoes cut in eighths or 1 cup of canned tomatoes. Season with 2 tea. sugar, 1 tea. salt, 1/2 tea. chili powder and 1/2 tea. pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, 10 minutes or until squash just tender.

Lipsticks Gay For Yule Gift Givers

Something for the girls! It's a going thing to have a cluster of lipsticks and to change the shade of your lips to harmonize with the color of your gown, suit, or sweater.

There's a clever little set of three in red plastic shown by Lucien Le-Long and called Whistle Stop. As you may guess the lipstick container is in the form of a whistle. Then a set of three in a red leather case by Revlon is the answer to the inexpensive-but-nice gift prayer.

Four cranberry jelly into a flat pan and let it harden. Cut out shapes with a cookie cutter for decoration.

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