

Summer Social

Summertime social outings means potluck season is here! When deciding what to bring to your next gathering, why not try something new? Here are a few ideas to get you started.

Baba Ghanoush (Roasted Eggplant Dip)

large purple globe eggplant
1/2 tbsp tahini
clove garlic, minced
tbsp lemon juice
Salt & pepper to taste

Garnish (optional) 1-2 tbsp olive oil Cayenne pepper or paprika Parsley leaves

- 1. Grill or char on stovetop the whole eggplant until its skin is very charred and flakey, turning about every other minute.
- 2. Let eggplant cool, cut in half the long way, and scoop out the flesh. Discard the skin.
- Put cooked eggplant, tahini, minced garlic and lemon juice in food processor or blender. Pulse it a few times making sure it is not over blended. You want it to be a similar consistency as hummus.
- 4. Transfer into a serving bowl and garnish. Serve chilled with pita bread, carrots and celery.



Palak Pakora (Crispy Spinach Fritters)

2 cups packed fresh spinach, roughly chopped

- 1 cup besan gram flour
- 2 tbsp corn starch
- 2 tsp chili flakes, adjust to taste
- 2 tsp coriander crushed
- 1/2 tsp mango powder
- 1/2 tsp cumin seeds
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp asafetida
- 1 tsp oil



- 1. Combine spinach, besan, corn starch, chili flakes, coriander, mango powder, cumin seeds, salt, and asafetida in a bowl. Mix it well.
- 2. Add water, as needed, to make a sticky dough.
- 3. Heat at least one inch of oil in a frying pan over medium high heat. To test, put a drop of batter in the oil. The batter should come up slowly.
- 4. Oil your palm lightly and form patties (not too thin), using about 2 tablespoons of dough per patty. Place patties on a greased plate.
- 5. Slowly drop patties into oil, but do not overlap. Fry the pakoras, three to four minutes per batch, turning occasionally, until both sides are golden brown.
- 6. Repeat this process for the remaining batches.
- 7. Enjoy hot with a sweet and sour chutney to dip it in.





Fennel, Citrus & Roasted Beet Salad

4 small to medium red beets 4 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil 1 tbsp Dijon mustard 1 tbsp champagne vinegar or cider vinegar 1 tbsp finely chopped cilantro, plus whole leaves and flowers or fennel fronds for garnish 1/2 tsp salt 1/2 tsp freshly ground pepper 1 medium pink or red grapefruit 1 medium navel orange 1 medium bulb fennel, cored and thinly sliced 2 tbsp chopped pistachios



- 1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
- 2. Wrap beets in foil and bake until tender when pierced with a knife, 40 minutes to 1 hour. When cool enough to handle, peel, trim and cut into wedges.
- 3. Whisk oil, mustard, vinegar, chopped cilantro, salt and pepper in a large bowl. Slice both ends off grapefruit. With a sharp knife, remove the peel and white pith; discard. Working over the bowl, cut the segments from their surrounding membranes (discard membranes). Repeat with orange. Add fennel and the beets. Toss to coat.
- 4. Let stand for 15 minutes. Serve topped with pistachios and cilantro leaves and flowers or fennel fronds, if desired.

Tip: Foodsmart has an entire category of recipes called 'In Season'!

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