

EatingWell

Spinach & Goat Cheese Bisque

Total: 50 mins**Servings:** 8

★★★★☆

A little fresh goat cheese and a touch of butter are just enough to make this spinach soup silky, creamy and a little nutty—but not enough to overdo it. We use dark green spinach for this soup because of the lovely color it produces, though you could use red-veined spinach and have just as good a flavor in a more Army-inspired khaki color.

Anna Thomas

Ingredients

1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon extra-virgin olive oil

2 large yellow onions, chopped

½ teaspoon salt, divided, plus more to taste

2 tablespoons plus 2 cups water, divided

1 teaspoon dried thyme or 2 teaspoons fresh

1 large Yukon Gold potato, peeled and diced

2 tablespoons cream sherry or Marsala

4 cups vegetable broth, store-bought or homemade

24 cups gently packed spinach (about 1 1/4 pounds), any tough stems trimmed

Pinch of cayenne pepper

Directions

Step 1

Heat oil in a large skillet over high heat. Add onions and 1/4 teaspoon salt; cook, stirring frequently, until the onions begin to brown, about 5 minutes. Reduce the heat to low, add 2 tablespoons water and thyme and cover. Cook, stirring frequently until the pan cools down, and then occasionally, always covering the pan again, until the onions are greatly reduced and have a deep caramel color, 25 to 30 minutes.

Step 2

Meanwhile, combine the remaining 2 cups water and 1/4 teaspoon salt in a large soup pot or Dutch oven; add potato. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to maintain a simmer and cook until very soft, 12 to 15 minutes.

Step 3

When the onions are caramelized, stir sherry (or Marsala) into them; add them to the pot along with broth. Return to a simmer. Stir in spinach, cayenne and nutmeg; cover and cook, stirring once, until the spinach is tender but still bright green, about 5 minutes.

Step 4

Remove from the heat, stir in goat cheese, butter and 1 tablespoon lemon juice; allow the butter and cheese to melt. Puree the soup in the pot with an immersion blender until

¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg

½ cup crumbled fresh goat cheese (2 ounces), plus more for garnish

2 tablespoons butter

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice, or more to taste

Soup croutons for garnish (see Tip)

perfectly smooth or in a regular blender in batches (return it to the pot). Taste and add more salt and/or lemon juice, if desired. Serve garnished with a large soup crouton and crumbled goat cheese, if desired.

Tips

Tip: To make 8 soup croutons: Slice one-fourth of a whole-grain baguette into 8 slices 1/2 inch thick. Melt 1 tablespoon butter; lightly brush on both sides of each slice. Place the slices on a baking sheet. Bake at 350°F until the edges are crisp and golden brown, 10 to 20 minutes, keeping an eye on them so they don't burn.

Tips

To make ahead: Cover and refrigerate for up to 3 days.

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size: 1 cup

Per Serving: 141 calories; protein 4g; carbohydrates 15.7g; dietary fiber 3.5g; sugars 3.5g; fat 7g; saturated fat 3.1g; cholesterol 12.6mg; vitamin a iu 5922.9IU; vitamin c 18mg; folate 94.8mcg; calcium 110.1mg; iron 2.8mg; magnesium 63.5mg; potassium 513.8mg; sodium 290.5mg; thiamin 0.1mg.

Exchanges: 1 fat, 1 vegetable, 1/2 starch

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