

THE RECIPE

Boiled meat with pearà sauce

CULTURE

21_03_2022



The *pearà* sauce is the true gastronomic soul of Verona. Pearà is a dish so beloved and so traditional that it has even fuelled a legend in the Verona area. A tale in which history, fantasy, and cuisine come together to create what for the people of Verona is almost a myth.

Legend has it that Alboin, king of the Lombards, took Rosmunda as his wife. The king

killed his wife's father, Cunimondo, in battle. The woman decided to starve herself to death. The court cook invented a sauce so tasty and nutritious that it restored Rosmunda's strength. That tasty sauce was pearà.

Pearà, a term from the Veronese dialect which translates as "peppery", should not be confused with *peverada*, a sauce made from chicken livers, with which it has only the use of pepper in common.

Ingredients

600g beef

300g chicken

300g beef tongue

1 cotechino

One calf's trotter

2 cloves of garlic

1 red onion

2 carrots

2 celery stalks

Fresh parsley

Salt

For the sauce

120g breadcrumbs

30g grated Grana Padano cheese

20g marrow

600ml meat stock

Salt and pepper

Put the cotechino in a pot with cold water, pierce it with the prongs of a fork, add salt and simmer for 2 hours, covered, over a low flame.

Now prepare the boiled meat: peel the garlic and onion and clean all the vegetables.

Transfer the prepared herbs to a pot with 3 litres of water, bring to the boil and cook for 10 minutes.

Wash the tongue carefully, add it to the herbs, then add the beef and continue to cook over a very low heat for about an hour.

After this time, add the chicken and the trotter and continue to cook on a low flame for another hour.

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Meanwhile, prepare the pearà sauce. Dissolve the marrow in a saucepan with a little stock, add the breadcrumbs, stir, add salt and pepper, grated Parmesan cheese and, a little at a time, the boiling stock, well degreased, and continue cooking for an hour. Add enough hot broth as needed to obtain a creamy sauce: the consistency should not be too fluid nor too dense.

Add the boiled cotechino to the meat and keep warm.

At the moment of serving, drain the meat from the broth, cut it into slices or pieces, arrange them on a serving dish and serve with the hot sauce.

Notes

While the beef is boiling in the broth, some foam will form on the surface: remove it with a skimmer.

Make sure you boil the broth on a gentle heat, otherwise the meat will fray and become stringy.

(Liana Marabini)

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