

FRICASSEE OF SNAILS WITH CARROT PUREE, RED WINE SAUCE AND PEARL ONIONS w/ BRIOCHE CROUTON

Ingredients

Red Wine Sauce - 50g chopped carrots

50g chopped celery 50g chopped onion 50g chopped tomato 250ml red wine 30ml port Sprig of thyme 2 fresh bay leaves 250ml veal stock Chopped parsley

50g peeled, de-seeded and diced raw tomato

For the Snails - 40 best quality snails (tinned ones are the best in this country)

100g chopped eschalots

50g butter

Method

For the

Carrot Puree - 250g peeled and chopped carrots

200ml cream

For the

Pearl Onions - 200g fresh pearl onions

50g butter Cold water Rock salt

4 triangles of thick cut brioche pan fried in butter until crisp and golden

To make the Sauce

Cook the carrots, celery and onions in a little butter until well coloured - NOT burnt, add the tomato and the herbs. Deglaze with the red wine and reduce by 2/3rds add the veal stock and reduce until it coats the back of a spoon. Strain through a sieve, add the port and raw diced tomato set aside.

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To cook the Snails

Rinse the snails under cold water. Melt the butter in a skillet add the eschalots and cook for a couple of minutes, add the snails add sauté for 1 minute more. Remove from the heat and set aside.

For the Carrot Puree

Cover the carrots with the cream, bring to the boil, and simmer until tender. Pass off the cream and puree in a food processor, pass through a fine sieve, check seasoning set aside.

For the Pearl Onions

Soak the onions in hot water for 3 to 5 minutes, then peel, keeping as much of the root on as possible. Cover with water; add the salt and the butter. Bring to the boil and turn down to the simmer cook for 5 minutes or until tender. Check this by inserting the tip of a knife. When tender drain off the water and set the onions aside.

To Serve

Re-boil the red wine sauce, add the snails, onions and chopped parsley. Check the seasoning. Re heat the carrot puree.

In four soup bowls place a scoop of the carrot puree just off centre, then spoon the snail and sauce combination next to that. Sit a crouton onto the opposite side of the puree to the sauce, serve immediately.

Serves 4

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