

Stuffed Acorn Squash

directions

- 1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Carefully, using a sharp knife, cut a thin slice off of each squash bottom so they will sit flat while baking. Place each half, cut side down in a shallow baking pan. Add water to come up about 1/4 inch in pan. Sprinkle grape tomatoes in pan around squash. Bake for about 40-45 minutes.
- While acorn squash are baking, brown sausage in a large skillet, crumbling with a spoon as it cooks.
- 4. Drain. Return sausage to pan.
- 5. To the sausage add the mushrooms, apple, onion, sage and fennel. Cook over medium heat until mushrooms are wilted and apples just beginning to soften.
- 6. Add in spinach, thyme, salt and pepper. Cook another few minutes. Remove from heat.
- 7. Remove baking pan from the oven and carefully place squash, cut side up, on a flat work surface.
- 8. Drain liquid and put tomatoes in a bowl and smash with a fork.
- 9. Add tomatoes and mozzarella to the pan with the sausage, toss to mix well.
- 10. Fill each squash half generously with the sausage stuffing. Place filled squash on the baking pan and return to the oven to cook for another 10-15 minutes until heated throughout and the cheese is melted.

notes

You can use a varity of our premium sausage products in this recipe. Pick your favorite flavor whether mild, hot, sweet, ot Italian!

to serve

Let sit for 5-10 minutes before serving.



servings

40 min prep time

40-45 min

ingredients

4 acorn squash, cut in half with seeds scraped out

1 pint grape tomatoes

1 lb. Swaggerty's Italian Sausage links, casings removed 8 ounces baby bella/crimini mushrooms, chopped

1 tart apple, chopped

1/2 cup finely chopped onion

1 teaspoon dried sage

1/2 teaspoon fennel seeds

2 cups chopped, fresh baby spinach leaves

1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves

Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

 $\boldsymbol{8}$ ounces fresh mozzarella, cut into small pieces

Pairs well with: Hot crusty bread, salad, seasonal fruit

Special Kitchen Tools: N/A