

The Hungry Cookbook

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For the Hungry.
By the Hungry.

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Welcome!

Part I

Chicken Recipes

1 Peri Peri Marinade

- 1 cup olive oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup white vinegar
- 8 bird-eye chillis
- 8 cloves garlic
- 2 medium onions

- 4 teaspoons dried oregano
- 4 teaspoons paprika
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 4 teaspoons salt
- 2 teaspoons pepper
- 1 roasted pepper
- 1 lemon, juiced

2 Peri Peri Chicken and Rice

2.1 Ingredients

- 1.5 lbs chicken thighs, boneless and skinless
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 whole red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 yellow onion, chopped
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 1/2 cup basmati rice
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, more to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- red pepper chili flakes (optional)
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 to 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- peri peri sauce
- 1 cup peas, cooked
- 1 to 2 tablespoons cilantro, chopped

2.2 Steps

2.2.1 Marinade The Chicken

Add the chili powder, garlic, black pepper, paprika, cumin, and salt to the chicken. Mix to evenly coat the chicken thighs.

2.2.2 Cook The Chicken

Add 1 tablespoon of vegetable or olive oil to a pan over medium high heat. Add the chicken thighs and spread evenly apart. Allow it to sear on one side for 4-5 minutes until a nice golden brown crust forms. Flip over to the other side and repeat. Then drop the heat to low, brush the chicken thighs with peri peri sauce and let it cook for 3 more minutes. Take off the heat and you can brush again with more peri peri sauce.¹

¹I like to do this step right after I cover the rice to cook

2.2.3 Cook The Rice

Wash your rice really well until the water runs clear. In a large pan, add the olive oil over medium high heat. Add the red bell pepper, onion, and minced garlic. Saute for 3-4 minutes and then add in the chicken stock. Add chili powder, paprika, turmeric, salt, oregano, tomato paste, butter, and chili flakes. Once the stock is simmering, add the rice in. If it stops simmering, bring to a simmer again and then drop the heat. Cover and let it cook for about 18 minutes or until tender. Take off the heat, fluff with a fork, add the peas and chopped cilantro. Mix again. Top with the cooked chicken. Enjoy!

3 Chicken Burgers

4 Paella

For the Sofrito:

- 3 dried ñora peppers or 4 ancho chilies (1 1/2 ounces total; 50g), optional; see note (Spanish dried ñora peppers add an earthy note to the sofrito; ancho chilies are a close approximation, though they have more heat. You can also omit the peppers entirely.)
- 1/4 cup (60ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 medium cloves garlic, minced
- 2 medium yellow onions (3/4 pound; 300g), finely diced
- One large (8-ounce/225g) red pepper, stemmed, seeded, and finely diced
- Kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon (15ml) tomato paste

For the Paella:

- 1 tablespoon (15ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt
- 2 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs (1 pound; 450g)
- 1/3 cup sofrito (3 ounces; 85g)
- 1/4 teaspoon sweet smoked Spanish paprika (pimentón dulce)
- Pinch saffron threads
- 2 1/2 cups (590ml) boiling hot white chicken stock or low-sodium broth, vegetable stock, or water, plus more as needed
- 3/4 cup (5.25 ounces; 150g) short-grain Spanish rice, such as Bomba and Calasparra
- 6 large shelled shrimp
- Lemon wedges, for serving

5 Khanpunggi

5.1 Ingredients

5.1.1 Chicken:

- 1/2 pound chicken breast (about 230 grams), cut into bite size small pieces
- 1/2 teaspoon minced ginger
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup potato starch
- 1 egg white (If you use 1 pound chicken, use 1 whole egg)
- Spicy garlic- and leek-infused oil:

- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup vegetable or corn oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup thinly shredded leek
- 4 garlic cloves, cut into halves
- 1 tablespoon coarse red chili flakes

5.1.2 Vegetables and seasonings:

1 green chili pepper, deseeded, sliced thinly 1 fresh red chili pepper, deseeded, sliced thinly 1 green onion, chopped $\frac{1}{2}$ medium sized onion, chopped 3-4 small dried red chili peppers Sweet and sour sauce (all mixed together in a small bowl):

1 tablespoon soy sauce 2 tablespoons water 2 tablespoons rice syrup (or sugar) 1 tablespoon white vinegar 1 teaspoon potato starch Oil:

1 cup cooking oil (grapeseed oil, vegetable oil, or corn oil) 1 teaspoon toasted sesame oil

6 Jerk Chicken

6.1 Brine

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup|75 grams kosher salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup|60 grams granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon whole allspice berries (toast them to expose more flavor)
- 5 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 cloves
- 1 Scotch bonnet pepper, halved
- 1 (3-inch) piece ginger, roughly chopped
- 1 chicken, broken down into 6 pieces (2 breasts, 2 whole legs, and 2 wings)

Feel free to also add onion powder or even a halved onion.

6.2 Jerk Marinade

- 6 whole Scotch bonnet peppers
- 6 scallions, roughly chopped
- 2-inch knob fresh ginger, roughly chopped
- 6 garlic cloves
- 1 bunch freshly picked thyme leaves
- 1 bunch freshly picked rosemary leaves
- 1 tablespoon ground allspice (toasted and ground)
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons zest and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup juice from about 4 limes
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup whole allspice berries
- 4 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons tamarind paste
- 4 - 8 dried bay leaves (about 2 loosely packed cups)
- 1 large whole chicken, back removed, split in half along breastbone (4 to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, see note)

6.3 Jerk BBQ Sauce

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup minced ginger
- 10 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 yellow onions, roughly chopped
- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups|1.9 kilograms ketchup
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups|300 grams dark brown sugar
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups|300 grams jerk paste

6.4 Directions

0. **For the Brine:** Combine salt, sugar, allspice, garlic, bay leaves, cloves, Scotch bonnet, and ginger in a large saucepan. Add 1 quart water and bring to a boil over high heat, stirring until salt and sugar are dissolved. Remove from heat and add 1 quart ice. Stir until ice is melted and brine is cold. Place chicken in a large zipper-lock bag and add brine. Seal bag, pressing out as much air as possible. Place in a bowl and refrigerate for at least 4 hours and up to 24.
1. **For the Marinade:** Combine peppers, scallions, ginger, garlic, thyme, allspice, nutmeg, cinnamon, brown sugar, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce, tamarind paste lime zest and juice, olive oil, 2 teaspoons black pepper, and 1 tablespoon kosher salt in the work bowl of a food processor or the jar of a blender. Blend until a rough puree is formed. Paste should be thick.
2. Place chickens in a large bowl or baking dish. Pour marinade over chickens and turn until thoroughly coated. Divide chicken and marinade between two gallon-sized zipper-lock bags, or place in a large baking dish and cover tightly with plastic wrap. Place whole allspice berries and bay leaves in a gallon-sized zipper-lock bag and fill with water. Refrigerate chicken and bay leaves at least 10 hours and up to 1 day.
3. When ready to cook, remove chicken from bags, allow excess marinade to drip off, and transfer to a large plate. Light one half chimney full of charcoal. When all the charcoal is lit and covered with gray ash, pour out and pile the coals against one wall of a kettle grill. Alternatively, set the leftmost burners of a gas grill to medium-high heat. Set cooking grate in place, cover grill and allow to preheat for 5 minutes. Clean and oil the grilling grate. Set bottom and lid vents to half open.
4. Drain bay leaves and allspice berries in a fine mesh strainer. Spread 2/3rds of bay leaves evenly over the cooler side of the grill (it's ok if some allspice berries fall through) in a pattern just large enough to fit the chickens. Lay the chickens over the bay leaves skin side up with the legs pointed towards the hotter side of the grill. Place 1/3 of remaining bay leaves over hot side of grill and immediately cover, with the vent above the chicken. Cook for 15 minutes.
5. Open lid and place half of remaining bay leaves and allspice berries on hot side of grill directly above the coals. Immediately cover and cook for another 15 minutes. Open lid, add 15 new coals to the pile of hot coals, then place remaining bay leaves and allspice berries on hot side of grill directly above the coals. Cover and continue to cook until the coolest part of the chicken breast registers 145°F on an instant read thermometer, about 20 minutes longer.
6. Uncover grill and wait five minutes until coals are hot again (if using gas grill, increase heat to high). Carefully lift the chicken off the bay leaves and transfer it to the hot side of the grill skin side up. Using tongs, drop the bay leaves into the grill directly onto the coals or burners so that they smoke. Cook the chicken until lightly charred, about 3 minutes. Flip chicken and continue to cook until skin is crisp and charred and coolest part of breast registers 150 to 155°F on an instant read thermometer, 4 to 6 minutes longer. Transfer to a large platter, allow to rest 5 minutes, and serve.
7. **For the BBQ:** Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat until shimmering. Add ginger, garlic, and onions and cook, stirring frequently, until softened but not browned, about 10 minutes. Add ketchup, brown sugar, and jerk paste and bring to a simmer. Cook, stirring occasionally, until thickened and rich, about 30 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Transfer to a blender and blend until smooth. Serve with chicken.

7 Panang curry

1 1/2 lbs chicken thigh boneless, cut into bite size pieces 1 white onion finely chopped 5 cloves garlic minced 1 green bell peppers chopped 1 red bell peppers chopped 1/2 inch galangal roughly sliced 1 inch lemongrass roughly sliced 1 tablespoon coconut oil small jar Thai Panang curry paste measured to about 4 1/2 tablespoons 1 tablespoon unsweetened peanut butter 2 teaspoon fish sauce 1 pinch nutmeg powder optional Salt to taste if required 2 teaspoon palm sugar or brown sugar 6-8 kaffir lime leave crushed 2 cups coconut milk thick 1/4 cup Thai basil leaves

7.1 for the paste

INGREDIENTS 17 to 20 (2- to 3-inch-long) prik haeng (dried hot red chiles), halved and seeds discarded 4 teaspoons coriander seeds 2 fresh lemongrass stalks, 1 or 2 outer leaves discarded (or use reserved bottoms from iced lemongrass tea, page 160) 1 teaspoon whole black peppercorns 4 teaspoons finely chopped peeled fresh or thawed frozen greater galangal (sometimes called kha) 6 (4-inch-long) fresh or frozen Kaffir lime leaves (sometimes called bai makroot), finely chopped 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro roots or stems 5 small shallots, chopped (6 tablespoons) 1/4 cup chopped garlic 15 to 20 (1-inch-long) red prik kii noo (fresh bird's-eye chiles) or serrano chiles, finely chopped 2 teaspoons ga-pi (Thai shrimp paste) 1/2 teaspoon salt

8 Teriyaki Glazed Salmon Cucumber Avocado Rice Bowl

- 4 salmon fillets, about 5 ounces (140g) each
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon (15ml) vegetable or canola oil
- 4 cups cooked white or brown rice (about 680g cooked rice)
- 1 avocado, diced
- 1 Persian or Japanese cucumber, diced
- 6 to 8 scallions, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup (120ml) homemade or store-bought teriyaki sauce
- Furikake and/or toasted sesame seeds, for serving (see note)

9 Easy Chicken, Avocado, and Fried Egg Sandwich Recipe

- 8 boneless and skinless chicken thighs
- 3 lemons
- 3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons grapeseed oil
- 1 tablespoon poultry seasoning
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cayenne
- 5 sprigs thyme, leaves picked and chopped, plus 2 whole sprigs
- 3 sprigs rosemary, leaves picked and finely chopped, plus 1 whole sprig
- kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 4 garlic cloves, peeled and smashed
- 1 jalapeño, stemmed and thinly sliced
- 1 medium red onion, thinly sliced
- 2 avocados, halved, pitted, and scooped
- 4 large eggs
- 1 pound manchego, grated
- 1 loaf 7-grain bread, sliced into 8 (1/2-inch) thick slices

10 Shakshuka

- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

- 1 large onion, halved and thinly sliced
- 1 large red bell pepper, seeded and thinly sliced
- 3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon sweet paprika
- 1 teaspoon cayenne, or to taste
- 1 (28-ounce) can whole plum tomatoes with juices, coarsely chopped
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt, more as needed
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon black pepper, more as needed
- 5 ounces feta cheese, crumbled (about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups)
- 6 large eggs
- Chopped cilantro, for serving
- Hot sauce, for serving

11 BBQ Chicken Wings

11.1 PASTE

- 1 medium onion , peeled and quartered
- 10 cloves garlic , peeled
- 2 fresh red chillies , stalks removed
- olive oil

11.2 HERBS AND SPICES

- 10 sprigs fresh thyme or lemon thyme , leaves picked
- 10 sprigs fresh rosemary , leaves picked
- 1 small bunch fresh coriander
- 10 bay leaves
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 2 tablespoons fennel seeds
- 2 tablespoons smoked paprika
- 6 cloves

11.3 TO FINISH

- 2 oranges , zest and juice of
- 200 g soft brown sugar
- 6 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 200 ml tomato ketchup
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 teaspoons English mustard
- 200 ml apple juice

12 Tandoor Chicken

12.1 Ingredients

- Ginger garlic paste - 1 tablespoon.
- Garam masala powder - 1/2 tea spoon.
- Cumin powder - 1 tablespoon.
- Red chili powder - 2 tablespoons.
- Red color water - 1 tea spoon.
- Salt - to taste.

- Turmeric powder - 1/4 tea spoon.
- Yogurt - 6 tablespoons.
- Chat masala - 1 tea spoon.
- Coriander powder - 1 tea spoon.
- Chicken legs - 6 numbers.
- Kasuri methi powder (dry fenu greek leaves powder) - 1/2 tea spoon.
- Lemon juice - 1 number.
- Oil - 2 tablespoons.
- Pepper powder - 1/2 tea spoon.
- Mixed vegetable - 150 grams.

12.2 Method

- Clean and cut 2 or 3 long slits on each piece.
- Apply salt, chili powder and 1/2 lime juice all over the chicken and keep aside for 15 minutes.
- Make marination with coriander powder, cumin powder, red chilies, kasuri methi, turmeric powder, garam masala powder, red color, salt and mix well with yogurt.
- Apply it all over the chicken making sure to apply well between all the slits and inside.
- Preheat your oven to 425-degrees and cook for 25 to 35 minutes till the chicken is tender.
- Remove from oven and serve hot.
- garnished with sliced onions and lime wedges and also can be heated on a griddle if serving later.

13 Smacked Cucumber

- ginger
- garlic
- Sesame seed
- soy
- chili oil

14 Poblano Mole

15 Roasted “Doner” Kebab

16 Fried Chicken

17 Chicken Pho (Pho Ga in InstaPot)

17.1 Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons canola or vegetable oil
- 2 medium yellow onions, split in half
- 1 small hand of ginger, split in half
- 1 small bunch cilantro
- 3 star anise pods
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 4 cloves
- 1 teaspoon fennel seeds
- 1 teaspoon coriander seeds
- 6 to 8 chicken drumsticks
- 1/4 cup fish sauce, plus more to taste
- 2 tablespoons rock sugar or raw sugar, plus more to taste

17.2 To Serve:

- 4 servings pho noodles, prepared according to package directions
- 1 small white or yellow onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced scallions
- 2 cups mixed herbs (cilantro, basil, and mint)
- 2 cups trimmed bean sprouts
- Thinly sliced Thai chilis
- 2 limes, each cut into 4 wedges
- Hoisin sauce and Sriracha

17.3 Equipment:

- Instant Pot

17.4 Recipe:

1. Char halved onions and gingers in broiler
2. Heat oil in the pot, then cilantro, star anise, cinnamon, cloves, fennel seed, coriander, and chicken to the pot. Brown the chicken in the pot. Add 2 quarts of water, the fish sauce, and the sugar to the pot. Seal the pressure cooker and bring it to high pressure over high heat. Cook on high pressure for 20 minutes.
3. Open pressure cooker. Transfer chicken legs to a plate. Pour broth through a fine mesh strainer into a clean pot and discard solids. Skim any scum off the surface of the broth using a ladle, but leave the small bubbles of fat intact. Season broth to taste with more fish sauce and sugar if desired.
4. To serve, place re-hydrated pho noodles in individual noodle bowls. Top with chicken legs, sliced onions, and scallions. Pour hot broth over chicken and noodles. Serve immediately, allowing guests to add herbs, bean sprouts, chilis, lime, and sauces as they wish.

18 Thai Basil Chicken

18.1 Ingredients:

- 4 minced chicken thighs
- half an onion or shallot thinly sliced
- 2 red thai chilis sliced
- 1 cup of green beans cut into little cubes
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 1 cup basil thinly sliced

18.1.1 For the sauce:

- 1 cup chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons hoisin sauce
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1/8 teaspoon red chilli powder
- 2 - 3 teaspoons sugar

18.2 Directions:

1. Combine ingredients for the sauce into a bowl, then set aside
2. Into a large skillet add 3 tablespoons olive oil, add chicken when skillet is hot and cook thoroughly
3. When chicken is cooked through, add onion, red thai chilis, green beans, and garlic and continue cooking until the water in skillet dries
4. Add half of the sauce and continue cooking until the sauce dries in skillet

5. Add the rest of the sauce and continue tossing the chicken
6. Once all the sauce is evaporated, add basil and stir

Part II

Sous Video

- You Can Cook Frozen Food Sous Vide Without Defrosting! Here's How
- Sous Vide Cooking Times

Part III

Lamb Recipes

19 Lamb Nihari

19.1 Inspiration

1. Saveur: Pakistani Lamb Nihari Recipe
2. Keto Kitchen: Lamb Stew Recipe
3. Chef Ranveer: Lucknow Nihari

19.2 Garam Masala

- ½ tbsp poppy or mustard seeds
- 1 tbsp. coriander seeds
- 1 tsp. cumin seeds
- 1 tsp. fennel seeds
- ½ tsp. whole black peppercorns
- ¼ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
- 5 whole cloves
- 3 green cardamom pods
- 1 black cardamom pod
- 1 whole star anise
- 1 stick cinnamon, halved
- 3-4 bay leaves

19.3 Nihari

- 1 cup canola oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, very thinly sliced
- 1-2 indian chili peppers thinly sliced (as needed)
- 3 lamb shanks, halved crosswise or 1 pound of lamb loins
- 1 tbsp. cayenne
- 1 tbsp. paprika
- 4 cloves garlic, mashed into a paste
- 1 (3") piece of ginger, peeled (1" mashed into a paste, 2" julienned, for serving)
- ¼ cup flour
- 2 tbsp. ghee, melted

- 3 stalks of rosemary
- 3 stalks of thyme
- 3 -4 tomatoes
- Chopped cilantro, lemon or lime wedges, minced Thai chiles, and naan bread, for serving (optional)
- Kosher salt, to taste

19.4 Instructions

1. Make the garam masala. Two options (I prefer the first):
 1. Grind up everything except the cardamom in a pestle and mortar, and grate the cinnamon/nutmeg
 2. Purée poppy seeds and 1 tbsp. water in a spice grinder into a paste; transfer to a bowl. Grind remaining spices into a powder; stir into paste.
2. Make the nihari:
 1. Heat oil and onion, ginger and garlic in a 6-qt. saucepan over medium.
 2. Cook until onion is golden brown and nearly caramelized, about 15 minutes (you can remove or retain in the bowl. To remove, using a slotted spoon, transfer onion to a bowl. Discard all but ¼ cup oil from the pan).
 3. Cook lamb, turning as needed, until browned, 4-5 minutes.
 1. Stir in reserved garam masala, the cayenne pepper and paprika.
 2. Add tomatoes and stir in spices into tomato mixture for about 3-4 minutes.
 3. Add 3 cups chicken broth; boil.
 4. (Optional) Add 1/2 cup of red wine vinegar.
 5. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook, covered, until lamb has fallen off the bone, 5 ½-6 hours, or 2-3 hours if boneless.
 6. Using tongs, transfer lamb to a bowl; keep warm.
 7. Stir flour, ghee, and ¼ cup water in a bowl and add to pan; cook until thickened, about 15 minutes.
 8. Return lamb to pan. Serve with the reserved onion, julienned ginger, and, if you like, the cilantro, lemon or lime wedges, chiles, and naan.

20 Spicy Cumin Lamb Noodles

Source: <https://ladyandpups.com/2015/03/04/my-xian-famous-spicy-cumin-lamb-hand-smashed-noodles/>.

20.1 Ingredients

20.1.1 Lamb And Seasonings:

1. 2 tbsp cumin seeds, toasted and coarsely ground
2. 8.1 oz (230 grams) lamb, sliced

20.1.1.1 Marinates:

1. 1/2 tbsp soy sauce
2. 1 tsp coarsely ground cumin (from above)
3. 1 tsp corn starch
4. 1/2 tsp extra dark soy sauce (for color)
5. 1/2 tsp ground coriander
6. 1/2 tsp chili flakes
7. 1/2 tsp toasted sesame oil
8. 1/4 tsp garlic powder
9. 1/4 tsp ground white pepper
10. 1/8 tsp ground sichuan peppercorn

20.1.1.2 Seasoning A:

- 1/2 medium red onion, sliced
- 1 cup bean sprouts

20.1.1.3 Seasoning B:

- 4 tbsp canola oil
- 4 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 2 tsp grated ginger
- 1 large Asian red chili, diced (not spicy)
- 1 1/2 tbsp coarsely ground cumin (from above)
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1 tsp ground cayenne
- 1/2 tsp ground white pepper
- 1/4 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/8 tsp ground sichuan peppercorn

20.1.1.4 Seasoning C:

- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp rice wine, or sake
- 1/2 tsp rice wine vinegar
- 1/4 tsp light brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp MSG
- 1/8 tsp salt

20.1.1.5 Seasoning D:

- 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 tbsp chopped fresh mint
- Serve with the best chili oil ever

20.1.2 Hand-Smashed Noodle: (strongly recommend measuring by weight)

- 218 grams (1 1/2 cup) Chinese dumpling flour, or bread flour
- 2 grams (1/4 tsp) salt
- 126 grams (1/2 cup) water + 15 grams (1 tbsp) for adjustment

20.2 Recipe

Toast the cumin seeds on a skillet over medium heat, stirring constantly, until they start to pop and smell fragrant. Immediately transfer to a stone-mortar or spice-grinder before they burn. Grind them into a consistency that resembles coarsely ground black pepper, then set aside.

TO PREPARE THE LAMB AND SEASONINGS: Scatter lamb-slices flat on a chopping board in 1 single layer, then “tap” them all over with a sharp knife, aiming at scoring/tenderizing the meat without cutting through. Do this thoroughly. It allows the marinate to penetrate, and gives the lamb a more interesting texture. Then mix the lamb with the “marinates”, using your hands to really distribute the seasonings evenly. Let marinate for at least 2 hours.

In 4 separate bowls, combine all the ingredients in each individual “Seasoning A”, “Seasoning B”, “Seasoning C” and “Seasoning D”. Set aside.

TO MAKE THE HAND-SMASHED NOODLE: In a stand-mixer bowl (or with a hand-held mixer if it comes with dough-hooks)(hand-kneading not recommended), add Chinese dumpling flour, salt and water. Start mixing on low then gradually increase the speed to high, and knead for 5 ~ 6 min. The dough will

feel shaggy and a bit dry in the beginning, but as the flour absorbs water and glutens start to form, it will become extremely smooth and elastic at the end. It will be sticky but pulls away cleanly from the bowl during mixing. You should be able to “tap” the dough quickly with your finger without it sticking, and pull it slowly upward into 12 (30 cm) long without breaking. If the dough breaks, either it’s not kneaded sufficiently or it’s too dry. You’ll have to try both ways (try kneading it for another 3 min first, before adding more water) to get it to the correct consistency. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap, and let rest for at least 1 hour.

Line a large baking sheet with parchment, set aside. Prepare a small cup of canola oil within your reach. Oil your hands well, then transfer the dough onto an oiled surface. Roll out into an approximately 1/2 (1 cm) thick, rectangular shape, then cut into 10 long strips. Separate and lightly oil each strips so they don’t stick back to each other. Take 1 strip and lay flat on the counter, then with oiled palm, start smashing/pounding the strip outward into a long, wide and flat noodle. Don’t worry about evenness or straight edges because it doesn’t matter. Now pick up the noodle on both ends, lift it and gently tap it on the counter while stretching it out slightly. You don’t have to try hard. The noodle WANTS to stretch out and gravity will pretty much do the job for you! Lay the noodle flat, without any foldings, on the parchment-lined baking-sheet. Repeat with the rest (lay a new parchment over the top once you run out of space).

Carefully not to make the noodles too thin or they will lose their desired texture (you shouldn’t be able to see through it).

TO COOK: Bring a large pot of water to boil. Meanwhile, heat another large deep skillet/wok over high heat. Mix 2 tbsp of canola oil (not in the ingredient list) into the marinated lamb to lubricate/separate them, then add to the hot skillet as spread out as possible. Let caramelize for 30 sec without moving, then start sautéing just until they are no longer pink. Add “Seasoning A” and cook just until it starts to soften, then transfer to a bowl.

Add 4 tbsp of canola oil from “Seasoning B” to the same skillet until hot, then add the rest of “Seasoning B”. Cook until fragrant without burning the garlic, then add “Seasoning C”. Turn off the heat while you cook the noodle. Add the noodles, one by one, into the boiling water. Cook just until they float to the surface (it will take less than a min), then drain/transfer to the skillet. Turn the skillet heat back on high, then add the lambs/onion and gently toss everything together. Finish with “Seasoning D”.

Serve immediately with chili oil, and I’d like to sprinkle a bit more ground cumin on top.