

# Dutch Oven Braised Pork Ribs

## Ingredients

Pork rib rack . . . . .	4 lbs.	Dried thyme . . . . .	1 tsp.
Pork or chicken stock . . . . .	3 cups	Dried oregano . . . . .	½ tsp.
Apple cider . . . . .	8-12oz	Kosher salt . . . . .	2 tsp.
Soy sauce . . . . .	¼ cup	Black pepper . . . . .	1 tsp.
Worcestershire sauce . . . . .	2 Tbsp.	Garlic powder . . . . .	1 tsp.
Brown sugar . . . . .	2 Tbsp.	Onion powder . . . . .	1 tsp.
Tomato paste . . . . .	4 Tbsp.	Smoked paprika . . . . .	½ tsp.
Onion, medium . . . . .	1	Chipotle powder . . . . .	¼ tsp.
Garlic cloves . . . . .	1 bulb	Hot paprika . . . . .	¼ tsp.
Bay leaves . . . . .	2	MSG . . . . .	½ tsp.
Black peppercorns . . . . .	1 tsp.		

## Directions

Preheat oven to  $275^{\circ}F$  — Pat dry **pork ribs** — Quarter **onion** — Smash **garlic cloves**

1. Cut **pork rib rack** into quarters for easier handling.
2. In a small bowl, combine 2 tsp. **kosher salt**, 1 tsp. **black pepper**, 1 tsp. **garlic powder**, 1 tsp. **onion powder**, ½ tsp. **smoked paprika**, , ¼ tsp. **hot paprika**, ¼ tsp. **chipotle powder**, and ½ tsp. **MSG**. Rub mixture evenly over all surfaces of **rib quarters**.
3. Arrange seasoned **ribs** in Dutch oven (they can overlap slightly), tucking quartered **onion**, smashed **garlic**, **bay leaves**, **peppercorns**, **dried thyme**, and **dried oregano** around and under **ribs**.
4. In a medium bowl, whisk together **stock**, **apple cider**, **soy sauce**, **Worcestershire sauce**, **brown sugar**, and **tomato paste** until well combined. Pour over **ribs**.
5. Cover Dutch oven tightly with lid and place in oven. Braise for *4-4½ hours* until **ribs** are fork-tender and meat pulls easily from bone.
6. Remove from oven. Carefully transfer **ribs** from braising liquid as needed for intended use (BBQ finishing or soup preparation). Reserve braising liquid with rendered fat for soup base.

## Equipment Required

- Dutch oven (6-7 quart capacity minimum)
- Small bowl (for dry rub)
- Medium bowl (for braising liquid)
- Whisk
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Tongs or slotted spoon
- Sharp knife and cutting board
- Large plate or platter (for finished ribs)

## Mise en Place

- Pat **ribs** completely dry with paper towels before seasoning
- Have all liquid ingredients measured and ready to whisk together
- Prepare aromatics (quarter **onion**, smash **garlic**) before starting
- Ensure Dutch oven lid fits tightly to prevent moisture loss

## Ingredient Tips

- Use homemade or low-sodium **stock** for better control of final seasoning
- **Apple cider** should be unfiltered for more flavor; apple juice works as substitute
- **MSG** is optional but adds significant umami depth without altering flavor profile
- **Tomato paste** should be whisked thoroughly into liquid to prevent clumping
- Baby back ribs can substitute for spare ribs; reduce cooking time by *30 minutes*

## Preparation Tips

- Cut **rack** into quarters through bone for easier handling and better liquid exposure
- Apply dry rub generously but don't let it sit more than *15 minutes* before braising (salt will draw moisture)

- **Ribs** can overlap in Dutch oven but ensure liquid reaches all pieces
- Don't lift lid during first *2½ hours* of cooking to maintain consistent temperature
- Test doneness by inserting fork between bones - meat should offer minimal resistance
- For BBQ finishing: remove **ribs** gently to preserve meat integrity for air frying
- For soup: pull meat directly from bones while warm, return to braising liquid

## Make Ahead & Storage

- Entire braise can be completed up to *2 days* ahead and refrigerated in Dutch oven
- Fat will solidify on surface when cold; leave intact to protect meat, or remove if desired before reheating
- Reheat covered at *300°F* for *30-40 minutes* until warmed through
- Braising liquid without **ribs** can be frozen for up to *3 months*
- If freezing liquid, cool completely and skim excess fat before freezing

## Usage Notes

- This recipe yields **ribs** suitable for both BBQ finishing and soup preparation
- For BBQ: transfer **ribs** to plate, pat dry, brush with sauce, finish in air fryer at *400°F* for *3-5 minutes*
- For soup: leave **ribs** in liquid, pull meat from bones, proceed with bean soup recipe
- Braising liquid contains rendered fat and collagen - ideal soup base requiring no additional stock
- Taste braising liquid before seasoning soup; it's already well-salted from the braise
- **Bay leaves** and **peppercorns** can be strained out before using liquid for soup