

Sliced Grilled Chicken

From Nelson's Kitchen
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Ingredients:

- Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts
- Lemon
- Salt
- Sugar
- Freshly Ground Pepper
- Flavourless cooking oil, such as canola oil
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Fresh Thyme (or Parsley)

Procedure:

1. **Trimming the chicken breasts to make them of a more even for the BBQ (at least three hour before you will BBQ and up to three days ahead.)**
 - Remove the tenderloins.
 - Cut a small triangular shape from the end of each breast to remove the thin end of the breast.
 - Put each breast on its side and cut a thin slice from the thickest part to make each breast a bit more even.
 - Wash the chicken breast thoroughly in cold running water.
2. **Brine the chicken**
 - Make a brining solution with the following proportions: for each two quarters of water, add 1/4 cup of table salt and 1/4 cup of sugar.
 - Add a generous amount of freshly cracked black pepper to the brine.
 - Add the zest from one or two lemons to the brine (best to use a lemon zester, but you can also use a small grater). If you zest on top of the water you will capture some of the lemon essential oils into the brine.
 - Add all the chicken to the brine and let sit, in the refrigerator, for at least two hours, but you can also keep them in the brine overnight.
 - Remove the chicken from the brine and put in a colander or over a rack inside a clean sink to let all the brine run out.
 - If you are doing the brining a day or two ahead, put the drained chicken into the fridge and leave it uncover for several hours to help it keep drying. After 10 or 12 hours, cover the chicken so that it does not get too dry in the fridge.
3. **Finishing the marinating**
 - About one hour before you plan to start grilling, add some fresh lemon zest, fresh ground pepper, and the juice of one lemon to the chicken.

4. BBQing the chicken

- Get your grill as hot as you can (my gas grill gets to 550F)
- Brush the grill with a hard grill brush to make sure it is clean
- Pour a small amount of oil in a small dish, fold a piece of paper towel several times and holding the folded paper towel with kitchen tongues, deep it in the oil and smear all over the grill. Cover the grill to let the oil burn for a minute. Repeat the process three or four times to reduce the stickiness of the grill.
- Grill the chicken, leaving the first side down longer than the second side.
- As each piece of chicken gets done (internal temperature should be between 140F and 145F on an instant-read thermometer), remove it to a covered dish (either a bowl covered with a dinner plate or a heavy saucepan with a lid). It is very important to not overcook the chicken as it will continue cooking.
- Keep the cooked chicken covered until it cools enough to handle (20 to 30 minutes). The chicken will release a significant amount of juice while it rests. Make sure to preserve the juice.

5. Slicing the chicken to serve

- Try to select a cutting board from which it is easy to collect the juices to slice the chicken. As you slice the chicken pour juices back into the container that has the chicken.
- Using either a sharp chefs knife or a sharp bread knife, slice the chicken very thinly and put back into the pan with the juices as you slice them.
- Add a few tablespoons of extra-virgin olive oil to the chicken.
- Chop fresh thyme leaves and add to the chicken and toss well (best to use hands if making a generous amount of chicken) — if you do not have fresh thyme, you can use fresh Italian parsley.
- Taste to decide if you think it needs more lemon juice or more extra virgin olive oil or more ground pepper.
- Serve at room temperature or still slightly warm.