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Locro (Argentine Hominy Stew)

In Argentina, I fell for the gauchos and their *locro*—a stew of squash, meat, and hominy. It was creamy and slightly sweet, and its garnishing sauce, made with paprika, provided a festive burst of spice and color. —*Virginie Blachère*, photographer (http://www.virginieblachere.com/)

SERVES 12

INGREDIENTS

2 cups dried, broken hominy

1 cup dried lima beans

1 cup dried chickpeas

3/4 cup olive oil

11/2 tsp. sweet paprika

1/2 tsp. crushed red chile flakes

8 cloves garlic, minced

1 lb. veal shoulder, cut into 1" pieces

1 lb. pork shoulder, cut into 1" pieces

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

10 oz. cured chorizo, cut into ½" slices

1 large yellow onion, minced

1 tbsp. tomato paste

1 tsp. dried oregano

1/2 tsp. ground cumin

1 bay leaf

1 small acorn squash, peeled, seeded and finely chopped

Juice of 1 lemon

1 cup finely chopped scallions



Credit: Virginie Blanchère

INSTRUCTIONS

Rinse hominy under running water until water runs clear; place in a bowl with limas and chickpeas. Cover with water, and soak at least 8 hours or overnight; drain. Whisk ½ cup oil, paprika, chile flakes, and ¼ of the garlic in a bowl; set sauce aside. Heat remaining oil in an 8-qt. saucepan over medium-high heat. Season veal and pork with salt and pepper; working in batches, add to pan, and cook, turning, until browned all

over, about 5 minutes. Transfer to a plate. Add chorizo; cook until fat renders, about 2 minutes. Add remaining garlic and onion; cook until soft, about 3 minutes. Add tomato paste, oregano, cumin, and bay leaf; cook for 2 minutes. Return meat to pan with hominy, beans, chickpeas, squash, and 10 cups water; boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook until hominy and beans are tender, about 2 hours. Stir in juice; season with salt and pepper. Divide among bowls; drizzle with sauce. Sprinkle with scallions.

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