

Okra Beignets with Cilantro Sour Cream Sauce

Recipe Adapted from Epicurious.com

Ingredients:

For beignets

1 large egg

1/4 cup heavy cream

1/2 cup cake flour (not self-rising)

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

1/2 lb fresh okra, cut crosswise into 1/2-inch pieces (2 cups)

1/2 bell pepper, cut into 1/4-inch dice (1/2 cup)

1 small onion, cut into 1/4-inch dice (1/2 cup)

1/2 cup cooked rice (preferably jasmine)

About 6 cups vegetable oil for frying (1 1/2 qt)

For sauce

1 cup sour cream (8 oz)

1 1/2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

1/2 teaspoon finely grated fresh lime zest

1 1/2 tablespoons fresh lime juice

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Preparation:

Make beignet batter:

Whisk together egg and cream in a small bowl until combined.

Whisk together flour, salt, and pepper in a large bowl, then add okra, bell pepper, and onion, tossing to coat. Stir in egg mixture until combined well. Let stand 20 minutes, then stir in rice.

Make sauce while batter stands:

Stir together all sauce ingredients until combined. Chill, covered, until ready to serve.

Fry beignets:

Preheat oven to 200° F.

Heat 1 1/2 inches oil in a wide 4- to 6-quart heavy pot until thermometer registers 350° F. Carefully add level tablespoons of batter to oil 1 at a time and fry (in batches of 10 to 12), turning over once, until golden, 2 to 5 minutes per batch. Drain fried beignets briefly on a rack set over paper towels, then transfer to a baking pan and keep warm in oven while frying remaining batter. (Return oil to 350° F between batches.) Serve immediately, with sauce.



Curried Okra with Chickpeas and Tomatoes

Recipe Adapted from Epicurious.com

Ingredients:

1/2 lb small fresh okra

1 tablespoons vegetable oil

1/2 medium onion, chopped

2 garlic cloves, finely chopped

1 teaspoon finely chopped peeled fresh ginger

1 teaspoon curry powder

1 (8 oz) can whole tomatoes in juice, tomatoes chopped, reserving juice

1 (10-oz) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed (1 cup)

1/3 cup water

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Preparation:

If using fresh okra, trim, leaving tops intact, being careful not to cut into pods.

Heat oil in a 12-inch heavy skillet over moderately high heat until hot but not smoking, then sauté onion and garlic with ginger and curry powder, stirring, 2 minutes. Add tomatoes with their juice, chickpeas, and water and boil, uncovered, stirring occasionally, 3 minutes. Stir in okra, salt, and pepper and simmer, covered, stirring occasionally, until okra is tender, about 10 minutes.



Crispy Okra in Yogurt Sauce

Adapted from Epicurious.com

Ingredients

7 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided

 $1\ \mathrm{pound}$ okra, trimmed and sliced into $1/8\mathrm{-inch-thick}$ rounds Salt

1 cup grated dried unsweetened coconut

1 teaspoon brown mustard seeds, divided

1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds

1 small fresh green chile, such as serrano, Thai, or jalapeño, stemmed and quartered

1/2 cup to 1 cup water

1 cup plain yogurt (not Greek-style)

1/8 teaspoon hot red pepper flakes

10 fresh curry leaves (optional)

1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

Preparation

Heat 6 tablespoons oil in a 12-inch heavy skillet over medium-high heat until it shimmers. Fry okra, stirring occasionally, until well browned and crisp, about 15 minutes. Transfer to paper towels to drain and season with 1 teaspoon salt.

Purée coconut, 1/2 teaspoon mustard seeds, cumin seeds, and chile in a blender or food processor with enough water (1/2 cup to 1 cup) to form a fine paste. Bring coconut paste and yogurt to a bare simmer in cleaned skillet, stirring, then remove from heat.

Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in a small heavy skillet over medium-high heat until it shimmers, then cook remaining 1/2 teaspoon mustard seeds and red pepper flakes until mustard seeds begin to pop and/or turn gray. Add curry leaves (if using), covering skillet immediately as the leaves crackle for a few seconds. Stir spice mixture into coconut mixture in skillet, then stir in fried okra, then lemon juice. Season with salt.



Chicken, Sausage, & Okra Gumbo

Adapted from Epicurious.com

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon kosher salt plus more
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 3 pounds skinless, boneless chicken thighs
- 1/2 cup (or more) vegetable oil
- 1 pound and ouille or other spicy smoked sausage, cut into 1/2" rounds
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 medium onions, finely chopped
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced (white and pale parts separated from dark)
- 2 celery stalks, finely chopped
- 2 green bell peppers, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped garlic
- 8 cups chicken broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
- 2 cups 1/2"-thick slices fresh okra, divided
- 1 1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce (preferably Crystal)
- 1 teaspoon filé powder plus more (optional)

Steamed rice

Preparation

Combine 1 tablespoon salt and next 3 ingredients in a small bowl; sprinkle all over chicken. Heat 1/2 cup oil in a large heavy pot over medium heat. Working in batches, sear chicken until golden brown, about 5 minutes per side.

Transfer to a plate. Add sausage to pot; cook until browned, about 4 minutes per side. Transfer to plate with chicken.

Strain drippings from pot through a fine-mesh sieve into a 2-cup heatproof measuring cup; reserve 1 cup drippings, adding more oil if needed to measure 1 cup. Wipe pot clean; return drippings to pot.

Heat drippings over medium heat. Whisk in flour. Whisk constantly until roux is the color of milk chocolate, 15-20 minutes. Reduce heat to low; add onions. Cook, stirring occasionally, until soft, about 10 minutes. Stir in white and pale-green parts of scallions and next 3 ingredients. Cook, stirring often, until soft, about 10 minutes.

Slowly whisk in broth. Add bay leaves, thyme, and reserved chicken and sausage. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to low and simmer gently, skimming fat from surface and stirring occasionally, about 45 minutes.

Stir in 1 cup okra, Worcestershire, and hot sauce. Simmer until chicken is very tender and flavors meld, about 45 minutes. Stir in remaining 1 cup okra; simmer until okra is crisp-tender, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Season to taste with salt. DO AHEAD: Can be made 2 days ahead. Let cool slightly; chill uncovered until cold. Cover and keep chilled. Rewarm gently before continuing. Add 1 teaspoon filé powder, if using.

Serve gumbo over rice. Garnish with dark-green parts of scallions. Sprinkle with more filé powder, if desired.



Broiled Corn, Tomatoes, & Okra

Adapted from Epicurious.com

Ingredients

2 medium vine-ripened tomatoes, halved and cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices

1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil

1/2 cup fresh corn kernels (cut from 1 ear of corn)

1/4 pound okra, trimmed and sliced 1/2 inch thick (about 1 cup)

1 tablespoon shredded fresh basil leaves

Preparation

Preheat broiler.

Arrange tomatoes on a lightly greased jelly-roll pan and brush with 1 tablespoon oil. Season tomatoes with salt and pepper and broil about 4 inches from heat 5 minutes.

In a bowl toss together corn, okra, remaining 1/2 tablespoon oil, and salt and pepper to taste.

Spread corn and okra evenly on pan with tomatoes and broil about 4 inches from heat until tender, about 5 minutes. In a bowl toss vegetables gently with basil.



Pickled Okra

Recipe Adapted from Epicurious.com

Ingredients:

- 1 pound okra (3 1/2 to 4 inches long)
- 6 garlic cloves, peeled
- 3 cups cider vinegar (24 fluid ounces)
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon dried hot red pepper flakes
- 1 1/2 tablespoons dill seeds
- 1 tablespoon mustard seeds
- 1 1/2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar

Special equipment: 3 (1-pint) canning jars with screw bands and lids; an instant-read or candy thermometer

Preparation:

Sterilize jars and lids:

Wash jars, screw bands, and lids in hot, soapy water, then rinse well. Dry screw bands.

Put jars on a rack in a boiling-water canner or a deep 8- to 10-quart pot and add enough hot water to cover by 2 inches. Bring to a boil, covered with lid, and boil 10 minutes. Heat lids in water to cover in a small saucepan until thermometer registers 180° F (do not let boil). Keep jars and lids submerged in hot water, covered, until ready to use.

Make pickled okra:

Drain jars upside down on a clean kitchen towel 1 minute. Tightly pack jars with okra, stem ends up, then put 2 garlic clove in each jar.

Bring remaining ingredients to a boil in a 2-quart nonreactive saucepan, stirring until sugar and salt are dissolved. Divide pickling liquid evenly among jars, leaving 1/4-inch space at top, then run a thin knife between okra and jar.

Seal and process jars:

Wipe off rims of filled jars with a clean damp kitchen towel, then firmly screw on lids with screw bands.