



Shortcut French Cassoulet



This shortcut Cassoulet takes time out of the making without sacrificing any of the flavor!

Course Main Course
Cuisine French
Keyword French stew recipe, shortcut Cassoulet

Prep Time 30 minutes

Cook Time 1 hour 15 minutes

Total Time 1 hour 45 minutes

Servings 8

Calories 839 kcal

Author Toni Dash

Ingredients

- 1 ½ tablespoons Duck Fat* (or butter may be substituted)
- 8 bone-in skin-on Chicken Thighs , patted with paper towels and lightly salted and peppered
- 1 pound Garlic Sausages , uncooked**
- ½ pound thick-cut Bacon , cut across the bacon into 1 inch pieces 1 medium Yellow Onion, chopped
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- 2 small Carrots , chopped (unpeeled)
- 1 large stalk Celery , chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh Italian Parsley , diced
- 1 teaspoon Herbes de Provence
- 1 29-ounce can Cannellini (or White Kidney) Beans drained
- 4 cups (1 quart) Low Sodium Chicken Stock
- 3 large Garlic Cloves , minced
- 2 cups fresh Soft Bread crumbs from a baguette (I used a gluten-free Baguettes)+

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a 5 ½ quart (or larger) pot or French/Dutch oven, liquefy the duck fat at medium heat.
3. Place the chicken thighs skin down in the bottom of the pan. Allow to cook for 8 minutes on Medium to Medium High, periodically checking to be sure the skin is not sticking to the pan (*if it is gently slide a heat-proof spatula underneath to free the skin*).
4. Using heatproof tongs, turn the chicken thighs over and cook for an additional 3 minutes. Remove from pan to a plate; set aside.
5. Add the sausages to the same pan (*be careful of hot fat splattering!*) and brown on each side (approximately 3-4 minutes total). Remove and set aside (*can be added to the plate with the chicken*).
6. Add the bacon to the pan. Sauté to render the fat only (about 3 minutes). *NOTE: The fat will turn a gray color and be more translucent though the bacon will still be supple and pliable.* Remove with a heatproof slotted spoon, allowing excess fat to drain back into the pan before setting the bacon aside.
7. Reserve 2 tablespoons of the pan fat (leave it in the pan) and discard the remaining fat.
8. Add the onions to the pan and sauté over medium-high heat scraping all the browned bits from the bottom and sides of the pan. Sauté until the onions begin to turn translucent but are not limp. *TIP: if you allow the onions to sit before stirring they will pick up more of the pan drippings.*
9. Add the carrots, celery, parsley, herbes de Provence, beans and chicken stock; stir to combine.
10. Add the bacon to the pot; stir to combine.
11. Insert the chicken thighs and sausage into the stew so they are covered.
12. In a small bowl combine the bread crumbs and diced garlic. Sprinkle it evenly over the stew.

13. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes, periodically pressing the bread crumbs into the stew which will help thicken it.
14. Place the stew underneath the broiler to slightly brown the top crumbs and remove from oven.
15. Allow to sit for a few minutes, cut sausages into 2 inch pieces stirring them back into the stew, and serve. The stew is even more flavorful the second day too!

Recipe Notes

*Duck fat may be purchased from gourmet or specialty food stores, or online (I bought mine from Amazon.com). It lasts a long time and can be a great substitute for sautéing to add different flavor.

**I suggest checking with a butcher for garlic sausage (I found some at Whole Foods in the butcher department). If they are not available a kielbasa may be substituted or see what your butcher suggests.

+To make Soft Breadcrumbs place chunks of baguette in food processor, chopper or strong blender and pulse until they form large crumbs.

To make the cooking even faster, the vegetables may be prepared the day prior to cooking and stored sealed in the refrigerator until cooking is ready to begin!

| Nutrition Facts | |
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| Shortcut French Cassoulet | |
| Amount Per Serving | |
| Calories 839 | Calories from Fat 486 |
| % Daily Value* | |
| Fat 54g | 83% |
| Saturated Fat 16g | 80% |
| Cholesterol 203mg | 68% |
| Sodium 1136mg | 47% |
| Potassium 713mg | 20% |
| Carbohydrates 39g | 13% |
| Fiber 6g | 24% |
| Sugar 2g | 2% |
| Protein 47g | 94% |
| Vitamin A 2780IU | 56% |
| Vitamin C 2.5mg | 3% |
| Calcium 147mg | 15% |
| Iron 5.8mg | 32% |
| * Percent Daily Values are based on a 2000 calorie diet. | |