

chicken and chorizo paella recipe

Chicken and chorizo paella recipe brings a delicious twist to the traditional Spanish dish, infusing it with rich flavors and vibrant colors. Paella is a beloved rice dish that originated in the Valencia region of Spain, traditionally made with a variety of ingredients, including seafood, vegetables, and different types of meat. In this article, we will guide you through a step-by-step recipe for chicken and chorizo paella that's perfect for both beginners and seasoned cooks alike. With its hearty ingredients and easy preparation, this dish is sure to impress your family and friends.

Ingredients for Chicken and Chorizo Paella

To create a mouthwatering chicken and chorizo paella, you will need the following ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 200g chorizo sausage, sliced
- 2 chicken thighs, bone-in and skin-on, cut into pieces
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon saffron threads (optional)
- 300g Bomba or Arborio rice
- 1 liter chicken stock
- 200g frozen peas
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges (for serving)
- Fresh parsley, chopped (for garnish)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preparation Steps

Follow these steps to prepare a delicious chicken and chorizo paella:

1. Sauté the Aromatics

In a large paella pan or a wide, shallow skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the chopped onion and sauté until it becomes translucent, about 3-4 minutes. Then, add the minced garlic and diced bell peppers, cooking for an additional 2-3 minutes until the peppers are softened.

2. Cook the Chorizo and Chicken

Next, add the sliced chorizo to the pan. Cook for about 5 minutes, allowing the chorizo to release its flavorful oils. Then, add the chicken pieces, seasoning them with salt and pepper. Sear the chicken on all sides until golden brown, which should take around 6-8 minutes.

3. Add Spices and Rice

Stir in the smoked paprika and saffron threads (if using) to the pan. Mix well to coat the meat and vegetables evenly. Then, add the rice, stirring for about 1-2 minutes to toast the rice lightly. This step enhances the flavor of the rice, making it more aromatic.

4. Pour in the Stock

Carefully pour in the chicken stock, ensuring that it covers the rice and meat mixture. Bring the mixture to a gentle boil, then reduce the heat to low. Do not stir the rice after this point, as traditional paella is meant to develop a crispy bottom layer known as socarrat.

5. Simmer and Add Peas

Cover the pan with a lid or aluminum foil, allowing it to simmer for about 15-20 minutes. After this time, remove the lid and sprinkle the frozen peas over the top. Cover again and simmer for an additional 5-7 minutes, or until the rice is cooked and the liquid is absorbed.

6. Rest and Serve

Once cooked, remove the paella from the heat and let it rest for about 5 minutes. This resting time allows the flavors to meld together. Garnish with chopped parsley and serve with lemon wedges on the side for an added zing.

Tips for the Perfect Paella

Creating a perfect chicken and chorizo paella can be achieved by following these helpful tips:

- **Use the Right Rice:** Bomba rice is the ideal choice for paella due to its ability to absorb flavors while maintaining a firm texture. Arborio rice works as a substitute, but it may yield a creamier consistency.
- **Don't Stir:** Once you add the stock, resist the temptation to stir. This helps develop the socarrat, which is the prized crispy layer at the bottom of the pan.
- **Adjust Cooking Time:** Cooking times may vary depending on your stove and the type of pan used. Keep an eye on the rice and adjust the cooking time as necessary.
- **Experiment with Ingredients:** While this recipe uses chicken and chorizo, feel free to customize it with other proteins like shrimp, mussels, or vegetables for a vegetarian option.

Serving Suggestions

Paella is a dish that can stand alone, but pairing it with the right accompaniments can elevate your dining experience. Here are some serving suggestions:

- **Chilled White Wine:** A glass of crisp white wine, such as Albariño or Verdejo, complements the flavors of the paella beautifully.
- **Side Salad:** A simple green salad with a light vinaigrette can balance the richness of the paella.
- **Garlic Bread:** Serve warm garlic bread on the side for a comforting touch.
- **Tapas:** Consider offering a selection of traditional Spanish tapas, such as patatas bravas or olives, to start the meal.

Conclusion

This chicken and chorizo paella recipe is a fantastic way to enjoy a classic Spanish dish with a hearty twist. With its vibrant colors, rich flavors, and satisfying texture, it's perfect for any occasion, whether a family dinner or a festive gathering. By following the steps outlined in this article and keeping in mind the helpful tips, you will be well on your way to mastering this iconic dish. So gather your ingredients, don your apron, and get ready to impress your guests with this delightful chicken

and chorizo paella!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the key ingredients needed for a chicken and chorizo paella?

The key ingredients include chicken thighs, chorizo sausage, Arborio rice or Bomba rice, chicken broth, bell peppers, onions, garlic, tomatoes, peas, saffron, olive oil, and spices like paprika.

How long does it take to cook chicken and chorizo paella?

The total cooking time for chicken and chorizo paella is approximately 30 to 40 minutes, including preparation and simmering.

Can I make chicken and chorizo paella in advance?

Yes, you can prepare the paella in advance. It can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 2 days, but it's best to reheat it gently to prevent the rice from becoming overly soft.

What type of pan is best for cooking paella?

A traditional paella pan is ideal, as it has a wide, shallow shape that allows for even cooking and a crispy bottom layer known as socarrat. If unavailable, a large skillet can be used.

Can I substitute chorizo with another type of sausage in the paella?

Yes, you can substitute chorizo with other types of sausage like Italian sausage or andouille, though the flavor profile will change. For a milder taste, consider using chicken sausage.

What sides or accompaniments pair well with chicken and chorizo paella?

Paella is often served with a simple green salad, crusty bread, and lemon wedges. A glass of sangria or a light Spanish wine also complements the dish well.

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