

Hemy's Israeli Eggplant



Preparation time: 90 min

Difficulty: Easy

Ingredients

- Olive oil, as needed: None
- Pomi chopped tomatoes or 26 ounces chopped skinless tomatoes: 1 box
- Salt and pepper, to taste (be generous): None
- heaping teaspoon crushed dried red pepper flakes: 1
- large clove garlic, minced: 1
- medium eggplants, sliced crosswise into 1/2-inch thick rounds: 3
- small onion, chopped: 1
- sugar: 1 tablespoon
- tomato paste: 2 tablespoons

For this recipe we used:

Chopped Tomatoes 1 box



Preparation

Israeli eggplant recipe has a wonderful flavor and is super easy to cook.

Directions

1. Heat a 10- to 12-inch flame-proof casserole dish over medium-high heat. Add enough olive to cover the bottom of the dish in about 1/4-inch. Add enough eggplant slices to cover the bottom of casserole, with a little room between the slices. Fry until golden to tawny brown on one side, flip, and fry slices on other side. Transfer to paper towels and blot well.
2. Continue to fry the eggplant, adding more olive oil as needed to prevent the bottom of the casserole from scorching. When all eggplant is fried, blot the slices and set aside. OR: Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Place the eggplant slices on a large sheet pan lined with parchment paper. Brush olive oil on each slice; flip the slices, and brush the second sides of the slices. Place in oven. After 15 minutes rotate the pan. When the slices are golden brown, flip to the second side. Roasting may take 20 minutes or more. Proceed with the recipe as follows:
3. In the same casserole, add a bit of oil to gently sauté the **garlic and onion** over medium heat. When the onion is translucent, add the crushed red pepper flakes. Stir and sauté until you can smell the red pepper.
4. Reduce the heat to low, add the tomato paste, and stir in until the paste is incorporated into the onions, garlic, and red pepper, about a minute.
5. Add the chopped tomatoes, and stir well. Add the sugar, and allow the sauce to reduce by about a quarter. Add the salt and pepper to taste. NB: I prefer to use skinless tomatoes. Simply boil water in a 2 or 3 quart saucepan, make an "X" on the bottom of each tomato with a knife, and allow tomato to sit in boiling water for less than a minute. Peel off the skin, allow to cool, and proceed to chop.
6. Add some of the eggplant slices in one circular layer, and then gently push the eggplant layer into the sauce with either a spatula or the back of a **wooden spoon**. Then, create another layer of eggplant on top of the first. Again, push the eggplant layer into the sauce until almost submerged. Continue this process until all the eggplant is placed into the sauce.
7. Cook over very low heat for about 25 minutes, being careful to retain the layered look of the eggplant, and occasionally slide a metal spatula underneath the bottom layer of eggplant to avoid scorching.
8. Turn off the heat and set the casserole aside. Allow to cool to almost room temperature. Serve Israeli eggplant with lots of good crusty bread.