

JERNEJ KITCHEN

FRIED MOZZARELLA BALLS WITH CHERRY TOMATO SAUCE

Fried Mozzarella Balls with Cherry Tomato Sauce are a comforting, tasty appetizer or snack for all cheese and tomato lovers. Perfect for summer nights.

SERVES	4	PEOPLE (APPETIZER)
PREPARATION:	5	MINUTES
COOK:	20	MINUTES
TOTAL TIME:	25	MINUTES

SAUCE

2 tbsp olive oil

1/2 onion

1/2 tsp dried oregano

3 garlic cloves

1 tbsp chopped basil

1 tsp chopped oregano

400 g (1 pound) cherry tomatoes

120 ml (1/2 cup) water

CHEESE BALLS

100 g (1 cup) all-purpose flour

2 eggs

150 g (1 cup) dry breadcrumbs

250 g (9 oz) mini mozzarella

500 ml (2 cups) oil, for frying

parsley and basil, to serve

TOOLS AND EQUIPEMENT

kitchen knife cutting board pan paper towels

TOMATO SAUCE

First, make the sauce. Add oil to a pan and place over medium heat. Add diced onion and oregano. Cook for about 5 minutes or until the onion is soft and translucent. Add the minced garlic, and cook for another minute. Add the halved cherry tomatoes and cook for 5 - 8 minutes or until the cherry tomatoes are soft. Add the fresh herbs and water, stir to combine, and season to taste with salt and pepper. Cook for 6 -8 minutes for the sauce to thicken and for the tomatoes to soften even more.

TIP

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FRYING

Pat dry the mozzarella with paper towels. Prepare three different plates. Add flour to one plate, eggs to a second plate, and whisk well, then add the breadcrumbs to a third plate. Roll the mozzarella in flour, dip in eggs, and roll in breadcrumbs. Then repeat the process by dipping into eggs and rolling in breadcrumbs to get a thicker coating.

TIP

Make sure to coat the balls evenly and generously to prevent the cheese from melting away.

Sponsored FRYING

Pour the oil into a large pan. Heat the oil to 180 °C / 350 °F. Gently drop the mozzarella balls in hot oil and deep fry for 1 - 2 minutes or until golden outside. Shake the pan from time to time.

plates

SERVE

Transfer the deep-fried balls to the tomato sauce. Before serving, sprinkle with parsley and basil.