Ricotta Gnocchi with Peas and Prosciutto

Ingredients

Ricotta Gnocchi Serves 8:

1 1/2 pounds fresh ricotta
1 3/4 cups finely grated parmesan cheese
2 eggs, lightly beaten
1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1 1/2 cups unbleached all purpose flour, plus more for rolling out dough

Pea and Prosciutto Sauce Serves 4:

cup fresh peas
 slices Prosciutto di Parma (imported)
 large shallot, minced
 to 3 tablespoons good quality butter
 tablespoons sage leaves, julienned
 kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
 Parmesan cheese, shaved
 extra virgin olive oil

Preparation

Make Gnocchi: drain ricotta in fine strainer over bowl overnight, if needed. Mix ricotta with parmesan, eggs, nutmeg, and salt until well combined.

Lay flour on work surface; make well in center. Place ricotta mixture in center. Slowly work flour in until dough is formed. Knead dough a few times--don't overwork it. Form into a fat loaf. Cut off piece from end of loaf and roll out to 1/2 inch log. Using bench scraper, cut off 1 inch pieces; continue until finished. Place gnocchi on lightly floured parchment in baking sheet. Freeze for 30 minutes; if desired, divide gnocchi and place half in plastic bag to freeze for another use. Add gnocchi to salted boiling water. Cook until floating in pot, about 3 to 4 minutes. Remove with skimmer and drain on paper towels.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a large pot of salted boiling water, blanch peas for 2 minutes. Shock peas in ice water and drain on paper towels.

Place prosciutto slices on a rack or broiler pan. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, until crispy; break prosciutto into shards. In a large saute pan, melt butter until almost brown and saute shallot. Add peas and then gnocchi. Cook until golden, adding more butter, if needed. Season with salt and pepper; finish with sage leaves.

Serve in shallow bowls, topped with prosciutto, olive oil, and parmesan.

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