Pumpkin Risotto with New Orleans Shrimp, Sage, and Brown Butter

Recipe courtesy of Ben Pollinger, executive chef of Oceana restaurant

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons butter
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- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 shallot, minced
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- 1 cup carnaroli rice
- ½ cup dry white wine
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- 6 cups chicken stock, boiling
- 1 cup diced sauteed butternut squash
- 8 ounces cleaned shrimp, diced into
- ¹⁄₄ inch pieces
- 1/2 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 tablespoon sage, chiffonade
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- 1 tablespoon parsley, chopped
- 2 tablespoons mascarpone

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Heat a 12-inch sauté pan over medium heat. Add 1 tablespoon butter and allow to brown gently.
- 2. Add extra virgin olive oil and shallot, sweat shallotwith no color until translucent.
- 3. Add rice and cook two minutes, stirring frequently.
- 4. Season with salt and pepper.
- 5. Add white wine and stir continuously until almost absorbed.
- 6. Begin adding stock in additions of ½ cup to 1 cup at a time, stirring constantly. Cook each addition until you can run spatula through the rice and it does not flow back.
- 7. When rice is almost cooked and only one addition of liquid remains, add diced sautéed squash and shrimp. Cook until shrimp turns pink. Add pumpkin puree and herbs, mix well.
- 8. Turn off heat and stir in mascarpone.
- 9. Divide among 4 bowls.
- 10. In a separate small pot cook the remaining 1 tablespoon butter until browned. Drizzle over risotto.

For sautéed butternut squash

- 11. Cut the top part of a butternut squash off and peel.
- 12. Cut into ¼- inch thick slices, cut the slices into ¼- inchthick sticks, and cut the sticks into ¼- inch pieces.
- 13. Heat a large sauté pan over medium heat. Add 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil and squash. Season with salt and pepper. Sauté until tender. Reserve.

For pumpkin puree

- 14. Cut a pumpkin or the bottom part of the butternut squash in half.
- 15. Scoop out seeds. Drizzle cut side with a little canola or vegetable oil and season with salt and pepper.
- 16. Place cut side down on a baking tray lined with parchment paper.
- 17. Roast in a 375 degree oven until tender.
- Scoop flesh from skin and puree smooth in a food processor. (Serves 4)