THE KITCHEN WITCH



Heather McNally Portland-on-the-Rideau

SPAGHETTI WITH MEAT SAUCE A must for this version is Italian plum tomatoes, which cook into a thicker Along with the sauce. ground beef would you expect there's use, bacon to impart a faintly smoky flavor. wine and an array of herbs season the sauce, real trick is the a little extra add and basil, oregano plus a soupcon more of wine, at the last minute. The blending of flavours requires a long cooking time, but if you leave the sauce too long it will taste dead. Just let the sauce simmer until your own taste buds decide it is done.

- pound bacon, chopped
- 2½ pounds ground beef
- 6 cloves chopped garlic
- 7 Sixteen ounce cans Italian plum tomatoes
- 5 tsp. oregano
- 5 tsp. basil

Freshly ground pepper

- l cup chopped green pepper
- 2 cups finely chopped onion
- 3/4 cup water
- 3 six ounce cans tomato paste
- 1½ cups dry red wine
- l bay leaf
- 2 Tbsp. salt

Fry bacon until crisp in a wide pot. Remove. bacon and all but two tablespoons of fat. Save bacon and fat. Add ground beef, breaking it up with a fork and cook until brown. Stir in onion, green pepper and garlic and cook for 10 min. Add more bacon fat if needed. Mash plum tomatoes. Stir tomatoes and tomato paste, bacon, one cup of the wine and 4 teaspoons each of the oregano and basil and all remaining ingredients into the sauce. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer very low for several hours, stirring occasionally. Taste after an hour of cooking and correct the seasoning; herbs vary and so do personal notions of flavor. If reheating for dinner then add the extra wine and herbs 10 to 15 min. before serving.







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