

Homemade Fettuccine (Authentic Italian Fresh Pasta)

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There is nothing like fresh pasta made by hand.

Homemade fettuccine has a texture and flavor you simply cannot get from a box. When made with a blend of semolina and white flour, it has the perfect balance – tender, yet structured enough to hold sauce beautifully.

And while we're cutting this dough into fettuccine today, this recipe is not just for fettuccine. This is a foundational fresh pasta dough that can be used to make tagliatelle, pappardelle, linguine, lasagna sheets, ravioli, and more.

It's one dough – endless possibilities.

This is traditional Italian fresh pasta. No oil. No shortcuts. Just flour, eggs, and technique.

Once you make it yourself, you'll understand why Italians treat pasta as something sacred.

Things to know about Homemade

Fettuccine (Authentic Italian Fresh Pasta)

- Fresh pasta cooks much faster than dried pasta – usually in 2–3 minutes. Stay close to the pot.
- The dough should feel firm but pliable. If it's too soft, it will stick in the pasta machine. If it's too dry, it will crack when rolled.
- Humidity affects flour. On humid days, you may need slightly more flour. On dry days, the dough may need a tiny bit of moisture.
- Always use freshly grated cheese in your sauces. Pre-shredded cheese won't melt properly with fresh pasta.
- Fresh pasta pairs best with lighter sauces like authentic Alfredo, butter and sage, or a simple pomodoro – it doesn't need heavy sauces to shine.
- If your pasta sticks after cutting, dust lightly with semolina and gently toss – don't pull it apart aggressively.

Why Use Semolina?

Semolina gives fresh pasta:

- Better structure
- Improved sauce grip
- Slight chew
- A more authentic Italian texture

It's especially perfect for dishes like authentic Fettuccine Alfredo.

Storage

Refrigerate: Up to 24 hours, lightly floured and covered.

Freeze: Form into nests and freeze up to 1 month. Cook directly from frozen.

Ready to Make Fresh Pasta at Home?

If you've never made homemade pasta before, let this be your sign. It's simple, rustic, and incredibly satisfying – and once you taste it, there's no going back to boxed.

If you make this recipe, I'd love to see it!

Tag me on Instagram and leave a comment below letting me know how it turned out.

And if you loved this recipe, you might also enjoy:

- My Sunday Sauce with Meatballs
- Italian Beef Stew
- Chicken Piccata

More authentic Italian recipes are coming – so be sure to bookmark this page and check back often. ☐☐

Buon appetito!





Homemade Fettuccine (Authentic Italian Fresh Pasta)

Servings

4 servings

Time

Prep Time: 30 minutes

Rest Time: 30 minutes

Cook Time: 2-3 minutes

Total Time: 1 hour

Ingredients

- 1 cup (140g) semolina flour
- 1 cup (120g) all-purpose flour or Italian “00” flour
- 3 large eggs, room temperature
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon fine sea salt

For dusting:

- Additional flour for dusting

Instructions

1. Step 1: Make the Dough

1. On a clean work surface, combine the semolina and white flour.
2. Form into a mound and create a well in the center.
3. Crack the eggs into the well.
4. Add the salt.

Using a fork, gently beat the eggs, slowly incorporating flour from the inside of the well.

When the mixture becomes thick, use your hands to bring it together into a shaggy dough.

Step 2: Knead

Knead the dough for 8–10 minutes.

Push it forward with the heel of your hand, fold it over, rotate, and repeat.

The dough should become smooth, firm, and elastic. Semolina makes it slightly firmer than all-white flour dough – this is normal.

If sticky, sprinkle lightly with flour.

If dry, dampen your hands slightly and continue kneading.

Step 3: Rest

Wrap the dough tightly in plastic wrap.

Let it rest at room temperature for 30 minutes.

This relaxes the gluten and makes rolling much easier.

Step 4: Roll the Pasta (Hand Pasta Machine Method)

Divide the dough into 4 equal pieces. Keep unused pieces wrapped.

1. Set your hand pasta machine to the widest setting (usually #0 or #1).
2. Flatten one piece of dough and feed it through while turning the handle steadily.
3. Fold the dough into thirds and pass it through the widest setting again. Repeat 2–3 times.
4. Now begin reducing the thickness:
 5. Pass once through each setting until you reach setting 5 or 6.

The sheet should be thin but not tearing.

6. Lightly dust with flour as needed to prevent sticking.

Step 5: Cut the Fettuccine

1. Attach the fettuccine cutter to your pasta machine.
2. Lightly dust the pasta sheet with semolina.
3. Feed it through the cutter attachment while turning the handle steadily.
4. Catch the noodles and gently separate them.

Lay them in small nests or on a lightly floured surface.

Let rest for 10–15 minutes before cooking.

Step 6: Cook

Bring a large pot of well-salted water to a rolling boil.

Add fresh fettuccine and cook for 2–3 minutes.

Fresh pasta cooks quickly – it should be tender but still slightly firm.

Reserve pasta water for your sauce.

The Ultimate Chicken Recipes Collection

The Ultimate Chicken Recipes Collection

12 Easy Italian-Inspired Chicken Dinners

Chicken is one of the most versatile proteins you can cook. It can be crispy, saucy, creamy, light, baked, grilled, or made in one pan. Whether you need a quick weeknight dinner or something special for Sunday, this collection has you covered.

Here are 12 of my favorite chicken recipes – all in one place.

Chicken Francese



Lightly floured chicken cutlets pan-fried until golden, then simmered in a delicate lemon butter white wine sauce. Bright, fresh, and perfect with pasta or roasted potatoes. [recipe here](#) Chicken Francese

Chicken Valdostana



Tender chicken layered with prosciutto and melted fontina. Elegant but simple – a beautiful dinner for guests or a cozy night in. Recipe [com/chicken-valdostana-chicken-with-prosciutto-and-fontina/](https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/11272/chicken-valdostana-chicken-with-prosciutto-and-fontina/)

Chicken Parmesan



Crispy breaded chicken baked with marinara and mozzarella until bubbly and golden. A true Italian-American classic that never disappoints. Recipe here: <https://lorianasheacooks.com/30-minute-crispy-chicken-parmesan/>

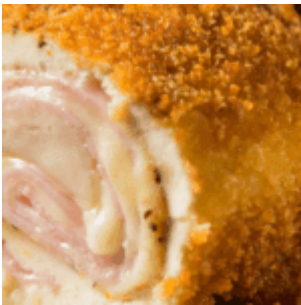
☐ Chicken Marsala



Golden chicken cutlets simmered with mushrooms in a silky Marsala wine sauce. Rich, savory, and perfect served over pasta. **Recipe** **Here:**

<https://lorianasheacooks.com/?s=chicken+marsala>

Chicken Milanese (Stuffed Version)



These Milanese-style stuffed chicken breasts are crispy on the outside and tender on the inside, filled with a savory combination of cheese and herbs. Breaded and baked (or lightly pan-fried), they have that classic golden crust with an extra flavorful center. It's a beautiful dish for entertaining but still simple enough for a weeknight dinner. **Recipe here:** <https://lorianasheacooks.com/milanese-style-stuffed-chicken-breasts/>

Stuffed Chicken Breasts with Mushroom Gravy



Tender chicken breasts stuffed with a savory filling, then topped with a rich, homemade mushroom gravy. This dish is hearty, comforting, and perfect for a Sunday dinner or when you want something cozy and satisfying.

The creamy mushroom sauce makes it feel special, but it's made with simple, everyday ingredients.

□ **Get the Stuffed Chicken Breasts with Mushroom Gravy recipe here**

<https://lorianasheacooks.com/stuffed-chicken-breasts-with-mushroom-gravy/>

Pollo al Limone (Italian Lemon Chicken)



This classic Italian-style lemon chicken is light, bright, and full of fresh flavor. Tender chicken is sautéed until golden, then finished in a simple lemon, white wine, and butter sauce that's silky but not heavy.

It's elegant enough for guests but easy enough for a weeknight dinner. Serve it with roasted vegetables, pasta, or crusty bread to soak up the sauce.

□ Get the Pollo al Limone recipe here <https://lorianasheacooks.com/pollo-al-limone-italian-lemon-chicken/>

Creamy Chicken Breast with Mushrooms



Juicy chicken breasts simmered in a rich, creamy mushroom sauce flavored with garlic and herbs. This is one of those easy skillet dinners that feels restaurant-worthy but comes together with simple ingredients.

It's perfect served over pasta, rice, or even mashed potatoes to soak up that creamy sauce.

□ Get the Creamy Chicken Breast with Mushrooms recipe here

Tuscan Chicken Under a Brick



This rustic Tuscan-style chicken is pressed under a brick while cooking, creating incredibly crispy skin and juicy, flavorful meat. Seasoned simply with olive oil, garlic, herbs, and lemon, it's a beautiful example of how traditional Italian

cooking turns simple ingredients into something extraordinary.

The brick method ensures even cooking and that signature crisp exterior while keeping the inside tender and moist.

☐ [Get the Tuscan Chicken Under a Brick recipe here](#)

Italian Roasted Lemon Chicken Dinner



This Italian roasted lemon chicken dinner is simple, comforting, and full of fresh flavor. The chicken is roasted with olive oil, garlic, herbs, and fresh lemon until golden and juicy, creating a beautiful pan sauce as it cooks.

It's the kind of meal that feels effortless but tastes like Sunday dinner – especially when served with roasted potatoes or seasonal vegetables.

☐ [Get the recipe here Italian Roasted Lemon Chicken Dinner recipe](#)

Easy Chicken Piccata



This easy chicken piccata features tender chicken cutlets lightly floured and simmered in a bright lemon, butter, and caper sauce. It's tangy, slightly briny, and incredibly flavorful while still being simple to make.

Ready in about 30 minutes, it's perfect for busy weeknights but elegant enough to serve to guests.

☐ [Get the Easy Chicken Piccata recipe here](#)

My Favorite Crispy Italian Chicken Cutlets



These crispy Italian chicken cutlets are thin, tender, and perfectly golden. Lightly breaded with seasoned breadcrumbs and pan-fried until crisp, they're simple, classic, and incredibly versatile.

Serve them on their own with a squeeze of lemon, alongside pasta, or use them as the base for other dishes like Chicken Parmesan. This is one of those go-to recipes every home cook should have.

☐ [Get My Favorite Crispy Italian Chicken Cutlets recipe here](#)

Things to know about this

Tips for Cooking Perfect Chicken

✓ Don't Overcook It

Chicken breast should reach 165°F. Use a thermometer – it makes all the difference.

✓ Let It Rest

Give it 5 minutes before slicing so the juices stay inside.

✓ Lightly Flour When Needed

Flouring chicken before pan-frying helps create that beautiful golden crust and naturally thickens sauces.

✓ Slice Against the Grain

This keeps your chicken tender instead of stringy

How to Store Cooked Chicken

- Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 4 days.
 - Freeze in cooked chicken for up to 3 months, in air tight freezer containers
 - Many of these recipes reheat beautifully, especially the saucy ones.
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Frequently Asked Questions

What's the best way to cook chicken breast?

Pan-searing followed by a short simmer in sauce keeps it juicy and flavorful.

Can I substitute chicken thighs?

Yes. Thighs are more forgiving and stay moist longer.

How do I keep chicken from drying out?

Avoid overcooking and don't skip resting time.

Final Thoughts

Chicken doesn't have to be boring. With the right techniques and simple ingredients, it can be elegant, comforting, or quick and practical.

I hope this collection makes your meal planning easier and gives you new inspiration for dinner this week.

If you try one of these recipes, let me know which one is your favorite – I love hearing from you.



**Italian White Beef Stew with
Potatoes & Peas**

**Italian White Beef Stew with
Potatoes & Peas**

(Spezzatino di Manzo in Bianco)

There's something deeply comforting about a pot of beef stew slowly simmering on the stove. This Italian White Beef Stew—known as *Spezzatino di Manzo in Bianco*—is rustic, simple, and full of old-world flavor.

Unlike tomato-based stews, this version is made without tomatoes, creating a light, savory sauce that lets the beef, potatoes, and sweet peas shine. It's the kind of dish you'd find in a nonna's kitchen on a Sunday afternoon—served with crusty bread and good conversation.

Tender chunks of beef, silky potatoes, and bright green peas come together in a rich broth built from olive oil, aromatics, and slow cooking. It's humble, hearty, and exactly the kind of meal that warms you from the inside out.

Things to know about this Italian White Beef Stew with Potatoes & Peas

- **Cut of beef matters:** Chuck or stewing beef gives the most tender results.
 - **Flouring the meat:** Lightly coating the beef in flour thickens the sauce naturally.
 - **Vegetable timing:** Add peas at the very end to keep them bright and tender.
 - **Flavor boost:** Letting the stew rest 10–15 minutes off heat allows flavors to meld beautifully.
-

Storage & Reheating

- **Fridge:** Store in an airtight container for up to **3–4 days**.
- **Freezer:** Freeze in a freezer-safe container for up to **3 months**.
- **Reheating:** Gently reheat on the stovetop over low heat, adding a splash of broth if needed. The potatoes may absorb some liquid, so stir occasionally to keep it saucy.

If you loved this **Spezzatino di Manzo in Bianco**, check out more cozy Italian recipes on the blog:

- Classic Italian Polenta – perfect to serve alongside this stew.
- Rustic Italian Meatballs – another comforting favorite.
- Easy Italian Minestrone Soup – for a light starter or side.

Don't forget to **save this recipe** for your next Sunday dinner and share it with friends who love **Italian comfort food**.





Italian White Beef Stew with Potatoes & Peas

- **Prep Time:** 20 minutes
- **Cook Time:** 1 hour 30 minutes
- **Total Time:** About 1 hour 50 minutes
- **Servings:** 4-6

Ingredients

- 2 lbs beef chuck, cut into 1½-inch cubes
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, finely diced
- ½ cup diced celery
- ½ cup diced carrots
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ cup dry wine **or** additional broth
- 3 cups beef broth (more if needed)
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary (or ½ tsp dried)
- 1½ lbs Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
- 1 cup frozen peas
- Salt and black pepper, to taste
- Fresh parsley, for garnish

Instructions

1. Lightly Flour & Brown the Beef

Pat the beef dry and season generously with salt and pepper. Lightly coat each piece with flour, shaking off any excess. Heat olive oil in a heavy Dutch oven over medium heat. Brown the beef gently on all sides, letting it caramelize slightly for deeper flavor.

2. Cook the Vegetables

Add the diced onion, celery, and carrots to the same pot. Cook until softened, about 5–7 minutes. Add garlic and cook another 30 seconds.

3. Deglaze & Simmer

Deglaze the pan with wine or a splash of broth, scraping up all the browned bits from the bottom. Add the rest of the broth, bay leaf, and rosemary. Make sure the liquid just covers the meat and vegetables.

Bring to a gentle simmer, cover, and cook on low for about 1 hour, stirring occasionally.

4. Add the Potatoes

Add the potatoes to the pot. Cover and continue simmering another 25–30 minutes, or until both the beef and potatoes are fork-tender.

5. Finish with Peas

Stir in the peas during the last 5–7 minutes of cooking. Adjust salt and pepper as needed. Remove the bay leaf and sprinkle with fresh parsley before serving

Broiled Lobster Tails for Two

– Easy Recipe

Broiled Lobster Tails for Two – Easy Recipe

Looking to make a restaurant-quality lobster dinner at home? These **broiled lobster tails** are simple, elegant, and full of flavor. With **butter, lemon, white wine, and a silky pan sauce**, this recipe is perfect for any special occasion—or just a treat-yourself night.

Even if you've never cooked lobster before, this method is easy to follow and yields a beautifully tender, juicy lobster tail every time. By propping the meat on top of the shell and broiling just long enough, you get a gorgeous presentation and maximum flavor with minimal effort. This is a recipe that feels fancy but doesn't require hours in the kitchen.

Things to know about this Broiled Lobster Tails for Two – Easy Recipe

- **Lobster tails cook quickly** – 6–8 minutes is usually enough for 4 oz tails; overcooking will make them tough.
- **Pan sauce tip:** Let the butter and wine emulsify after broiling for a silky, rich sauce.
- **Make it fancy:** Garnish with fresh herbs like parsley or chives for a beautiful presentation.
- **Scaling up:** This recipe can easily be doubled or tripled for a larger dinner party.

• **Tips & Variations**

- Serve with pasta, roasted vegetables, or a simple salad.
- Garnish with lemon wedges for extra brightness.
- Perfect for **date nights, celebrations, or a special weeknight dinner.**
- Ready to complete your seafood dinner? Try pairing this broiled lobster with:
 - creamy leeks, peas and asparagus risotto—the perfect pasta side for buttery lobster sauce
 - Italian Roasted potatoes – add color and crunch to your plate
 - Homemade classic Italian tiramisu – creamy comfort to elevate your meal

Don't forget to **save this recipe for your next special dinner night !!**





Ingredients (for 2 lobster tails)

- 2 lobster tails (4 oz each)
- 3 tbsp butter
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup white wine
- 1 lemon sliced
- Salt, to taste
- Black pepper, to taste

- Paprika (optional)

Instructions

1. **Preheat the broiler**, rack about 6 inches from the heat.
2. Add **butter, lemon slices and white wine** to a broiler-safe pan.
3. **Prep the lobster tails:**
 - Cut down the center of the shell with sharp kitchen shears, or knife. Cut away the legs from underneath
 - Loosen the meat away from the shell with your finger and lift it up, resting it on top of the shell to prop it up.
4. **Season** with salt, pepper, and paprika if using.
5. **Place lobster over butter, lemons and wine** in the pan.
6. **Broil 6–8 minutes** until the meat is opaque and lightly golden (internal temp ~140–145°F).
7. **Remove lobster**, return the pan back to the oven let pan sauce emulsify, about 5-7 minutes and spoon over before serving.

Farinata Italian Chickpeas

Flatbread

Farinata Italian Chickpeas Flatbread

Farinata Italian chickpeas flatbread is one of those quietly iconic Italian foods – simple, humble, and deeply rooted in tradition. Originating in Liguria, this thin chickpea flatbread has been made for centuries using just chickpeas, water, olive oil, and salt. It began as street food, valued for being filling, affordable, and made entirely from pantry staples.

Traditionally, farinata is prepared with chickpea flour, but this version goes straight to the source by using **whole dried chickpeas**. After soaking and blending, the batter bakes into a flatbread with crisp, golden edges and a soft, creamy center. It's rustic, naturally gluten-free, and a perfect example of how Italian cooking lets simple ingredients do the work.

Things to know about this Farinata Italian Chickpeas Flatbread

- Farinata Italian chickpeas flatbread should always be **thin** – a thick batter will bake up dense instead of creamy.
- Resting the batter improves both flavor and texture, so don't skip it.
- Using whole chickpeas creates a slightly more rustic

result than chickpea flour, while staying true to tradition.

- A hot cast iron or metal pan is key for proper browning and crisp edges.
- Farinata is best enjoyed hot, straight from the oven, but leftovers reheat well in a hot pan.

▪ **Variation: Rustic Farinata (Unstrained Batter)**

For a heartier, more rustic farinata, skip straining the blended chickpea batter. The finished flatbread will be slightly thicker with more texture, while still keeping the classic crispy edges and creamy center. Just be sure the batter remains thin enough to spread easily in the pan before baking.

▪ **Storage & Reheating**

Farinata Italian chickpeas flatbread is best enjoyed fresh, but leftovers store well.

- **Refrigerator:** Store cooled farinata in an airtight container for up to **3 days**.
- **Reheating:** Reheat in a **hot skillet** with a small drizzle of olive oil until warmed through and the edges crisp again.
- **Avoid the microwave** if possible – it softens the texture and dulls the flavor.

Farinata does not freeze well, as the texture becomes grainy once thawed.

- If you love simple Italian recipes made from pantry staples, be sure to explore more on the blog. Pair this

farinata with my

Homemade Beef Bone Broth for a comforting meal, or serve it alongside my Italian and Italian-inspired soups for an easy, rustic spread.

And if you make this farinata Italian chickpeas flatbread, leave a comment below or tag me on social – I love seeing how you serve it and make it your own.





Farinata Italian chickpeas flat bread

Ingredients (serves 4–6)

- 1 cup dried chickpeas, soaked overnight (12–24 hours)
- 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups fresh water (for blending)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon fine sea salt
- 3–4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided

- **Freshly ground black pepper**, to finish

Optional toppings (add sparingly):

- Fresh rosemary
- Thinly sliced red onion
- Arugula
- Parmigiano Reggiano

Instructions

1. Soak the chickpeas

Soak dried chickpeas in plenty of water overnight. Drain and rinse well.

2. Optional (but recommended for texture):

Simmer the soaked chickpeas in fresh water for **20–30 minutes**, just until tender. Drain and let cool slightly.

3. Blend the batter

Add chickpeas and **1 cup water** to a high-speed blender. Blend until completely smooth.

Add more water, a little at a time, if needed – the batter should be **thin, like crêpe batter**, not thick like hummus.

4. Strain for smoothness

Strain the batter through a fine-mesh sieve for a smoother texture, or skip this step for a more rustic farinata

5. Season and rest

Stir in the salt.

Cover and let the batter rest at **room temperature for at**

least 1 hour, preferably 2–3 hours.
Skim off any foam that forms on top.

6. Preheat oven and pan

Preheat oven to **425°F** (
Place a **12-inch cast iron skillet or metal baking pan** in
the oven to heat.

7. Oil the pan

Carefully remove the hot pan and add **2 tablespoons olive oil**,
swirling to coat evenly.

Bake

Pour the rested batter into the pan (it should spread thinly).
Drizzle the remaining olive oil over the top.
Add rosemary or onions now, if using.

Cook until set and golden

Bake for **18–25 minutes**, until:

- Edges are crisp and deeply golden
- Top has light browning
- Center is just set and creamy

Optional: Broil for **2–3 minutes** for extra char.

Serve immediately

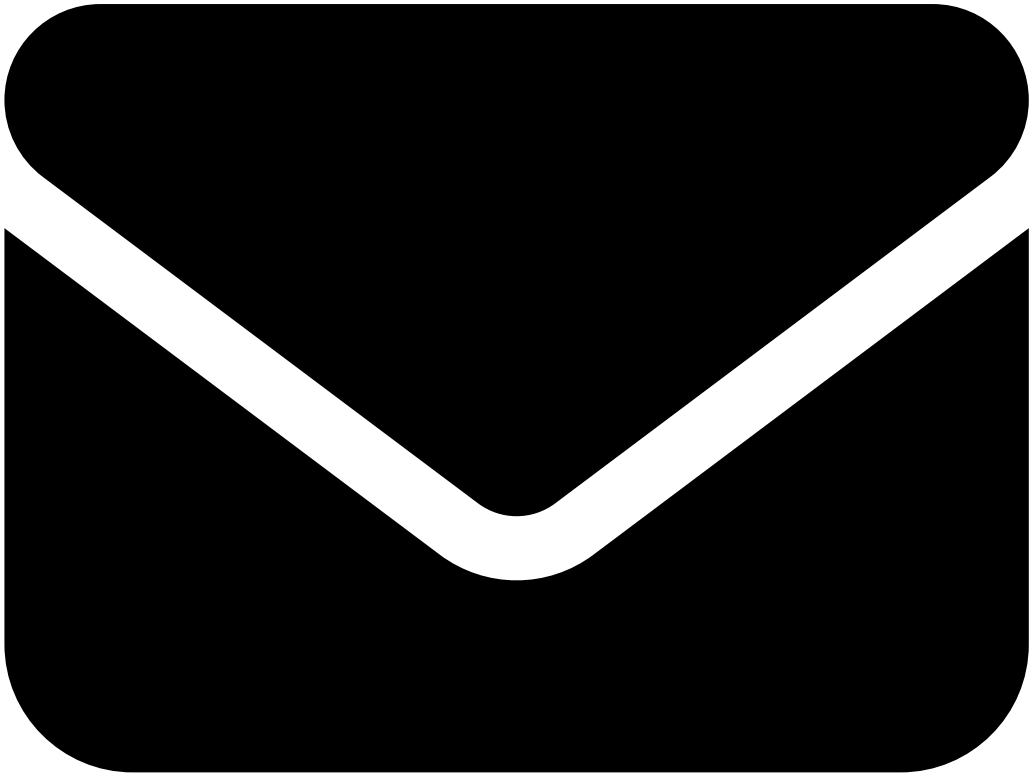
Finish with black pepper and any fresh toppings.
Slice into wedges and serve hot.

Italian Crespelle with Parmigiano in Beef Broth

Italian Crespelle with Parmigiano in Beef Broth

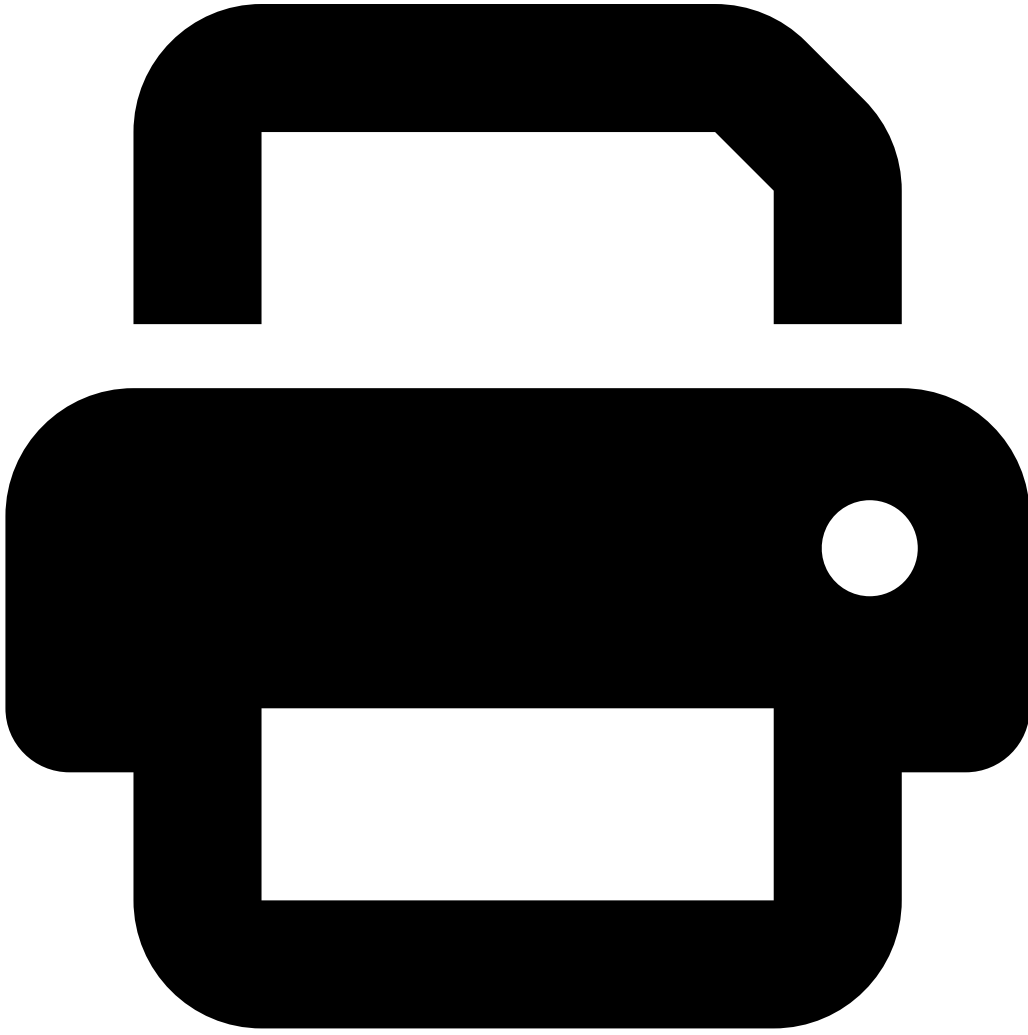
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This is a traditional primo piatto made with paper-thin crespelle, a light filling of Parmigiano Reggiano, and very hot broth. When done right, it tastes comforting and simple, never heavy.

In older homes, especially in Emilia-Romagna and central Italy, crespelle were treated like fresh pasta sheets. The batter was lean. The filling was minimal. All the richness came from the broth.

For this version, I use homemade beef bone broth made with neck bones and beef shank. It gives the dish body, clarity, and natural gelatin without needing butter or cream.

What Are Crespelle?

Crespelle are Italian crêpes, but they are not sweet. They are thinner and more delicate than breakfast crêpes and are used the same way Italians use fresh pasta.

When served in brodo, crespelle are filled lightly with Parmigiano and placed in a bowl. Hot broth is poured over just before serving so the cheese melts gently.

Things to know when making Italian Crespelle with Parmigiano in Beef Broth

- Crespelle are unsweetened and very thin.
- Butter is not traditional for crespelle served in broth.
- Parmigiano should be used sparingly so the broth stays clear.
- This dish is served as a first course, not a main soup.
- The quality of the broth matters more than anything else.

Tips for Success

- Use finely grated Parmigiano so it melts quickly.
- Do not overfill the crespelle.
- Warm your bowls before serving.
- Add salt to the broth only at the end.

A Dish Built on Broth

Crespelle al Parmigiano in brodo is a reminder that Italian cooking values simplicity over excess. When the broth is good, everything else falls into place.

Serve it hot, eat it slowly, and let the dish be what it is.

Make the Broth First

This dish depends entirely on good broth. If you don't already have some on hand, start there.

□ [Homemade Beef Bone Broth with Neck Bones and Beef Shank] – a slow-simmered, clear broth that gives this dish its depth, body, and natural richness.

Once the broth is ready, these crespelle come together quickly and simply.

Italian Crespelle with Parmigiano in Beef Broth

Servings: 3–4 (primo piatto)

Crespelle Batter (No Butter)

- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup whole milk ((240 ml))
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour ((95 g))
- Pinch of fine salt
- *For the pan: a lightly oiled paper towel, wiped almost dry*

Filling

- 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups finely grated Parmigiano Reggiano ((90–115 g))

1. **Make the Batter**In a medium bowl, whisk the eggs and milk until fully combined. Add the flour and salt and whisk until smooth. Let the batter rest at room temperature

for 20–30 minutes.

2. **Cook the Crespelle** Heat a 8 inch nonstick pan over medium-low heat. Lightly wipe the surface with oil, then remove any excess. Pour about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of batter into the pan and swirl immediately to create a very thin crespella. Cook for 30–40 seconds until set, then flip and cook for another 10–15 seconds. Transfer to a plate and repeat with the remaining batter. Stack the crespelle and keep them covered.
3. **Assemble** Lay one crespella flat and sprinkle lightly with Parmigiano Reggiano. Fold into quarters or roll gently. Place 2–3 crespelle into each warmed bowl.
4. **Serve in Brodo** Bring the beef bone broth to a gentle boil and taste for salt. Ladle the very hot broth over the crespelle just before serving. Serve immediately.

Classic Italian Meatball Subs

Classic Italian Meatball Subs

There are certain sandwiches that feel like home, and a good meatball sub is one of them. For us, this one goes all the way back to our very first eatery—a true hole-in-the-wall submarine shop where the subs were big, the sauce simmered all day, and nothing was fancy except the flavor.

Those meatball subs were messy, comforting, and unforgettable. They were built with tender meatballs, rich tomato sauce,

crusty rolls, and just enough melted cheese to make you lean over the counter when you took that first bite. This recipe is inspired by those early days, when good food and loyal customers were all that mattered.

Things to know about Classic Italian Meatball Subs

- **The meatballs are baked first at 375°F for 10–15 minutes** to develop a light crust before simmering in sauce. This keeps them tender and flavorful.
- **This recipe is all about assembly.** The flavor comes from using well-made meatballs and a slow-simmered sauce.
- **Toast the rolls lightly.** Just enough to create a barrier so the bread doesn't soak through.
- **Don't overload.** A few well-sauced meatballs beat an overstuffed, falling-apart sub.
- **Broiler watch.** Cheese melts fast—stay close.

• Storage & Make-Ahead Tips

- **Meatballs & Sauce:** Store together in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 4 days.
- **Freezing:** Meatballs in sauce freeze beautifully for up to 3 months.
- **Reheating:** Warm gently on the stovetop or microwave before assembling subs.
- **Assembled Subs:** Best eaten fresh; store components separately if prepping ahead.

• Serving Ideas

- Pair with a simple green salad
- Serve with crispy fries or roasted potatoes
- Cut into smaller portions for game day or parties

Final Thoughts

A great meatball sub isn't fancy—it's familiar, comforting, and full of love. Whether you're feeding a crowd or just craving something cozy, this is one of those recipes that never lets you down.

If you make these meatball subs, let me know how you do your meatballs—fried, baked, or straight into the sauce. I love hearing everyone's version.

Talk more about your recipe here. Make sure you're not repeating anything you said in the first section.

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Ingredients

- Instead of repeating recipes you may already know and love, this meatball sub uses our **original house meatballs and classic tomato sauce**—the same ones we served back in our first submarine shop.
 - [Classic Italian Meatballs](#) (link to recipe)
 - [Homemade tomato Sauce](#) (link to recipe)

Both recipes can be made ahead and actually taste even better the next day, which is exactly how we did it in the shop.

How to Make Meatball Subs

1. Make the Meatballs

In a large bowl, combine breadcrumbs and milk and let it soak for a minute. Add eggs, garlic, parsley, grated cheese, salt, and pepper. Gently mix in the ground meats until just combined—don't overwork it. Roll into evenly sized meatballs.

2. Brown the Meatballs

preheat the oven to 375-degrees, bake the meatballs 10-15 minutes. You're not cooking them through—just building flavor. set aside while making the sauce.

3. Simmer the Sauce

In the same pan, add olive oil and garlic. Once fragrant, stir in tomato paste, then crushed tomatoes, salt, pepper, and herbs. Nestle the meatballs into the sauce and simmer gently until the meatballs are cooked through and tender. (30- 45 minutes)

4. Build the Subs

Split the rolls and lightly toast if desired. Add meatballs and plenty of sauce, top with sliced cheese, and place under the broiler just until melted and bubbly.

5. Serve

Finish with grated cheese and fresh herbs. Serve hot—napkins required

French Onion Soup with an Italian Twist

French Onion Soup with an Italian Twist

French onion soup has always felt like the ultimate comfort food to me, but I can't help adding an Italian touch to the dishes I love most. In my kitchen, onions are never rushed—they're slowly caramelized the way I learned growing up, filling the house with that unmistakable, cozy aroma that signals something special is coming. For this version, I use a mix of red onions, yellow onions, and leeks, then finish the soup the Italian way—with herb focaccia and freshly grated Fontina instead of the classic baguette and Gruyère. It's familiar yet different, rustic but comforting, and exactly the kind of soup I make when I want something simple, soulful, and meant to be shared.

Things to know about this French Onion Soup with an Italian Twist

- A mix of yellow onions, red onions, and leeks adds natural sweetness and depth without needing sugar.
- Fontina melts smoothly and stays creamy, making it a perfect Italian alternative to Gruyère.

- Herb focaccia absorbs the broth while still holding its shape, giving you that perfect bite every time.
- The soup base can be made a day ahead; add the focaccia and cheese just before serving for best texture.
- **Storage:** Store leftover soup (without focaccia or cheese) in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 4 days.
- **Freezing:** This soup freezes well without the bread and cheese. Freeze in freezer-safe containers for up to 3 months. Thaw overnight in the refrigerator and reheat on the stovetop before adding toppings.
- Always add the focaccia and Fontina fresh just before broiling for the best texture and flavor.
- If you love classic comfort food with an Italian twist, this **French Onion Soup with an Italian Twist** is a must-try. The combination of caramelized onions, leeks, herb focaccia, and melty Fontina makes it a cozy, flavorful soup perfect for any season.

For more hearty Italian soups, explore my **Creamy Sausage Tortellini Soup** or **Potato Leek Soup with Pancetta**—both are easy to make and full of rich, comforting flavors.

Want to try more Italian-inspired weeknight recipes? Don't miss my **Italian sausage Escarole and Beans** or **Spinach Ricotta Balls** for quick, flavorful meals the whole family will love.

Remember to **save this French Onion Soup recipe** for later and **follow my blog** for more Italian cooking inspiration delivered right to your inbox!





French Onion Soup with an Italian Twist

Prep Time

15 minutes

Cook Time

1 hour 10 minutes

Total Time

1 hour 25 minutes

Servings

4–6

Ingredients

Soup

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 large yellow onions, thinly sliced
- 2 medium red onions, thinly sliced
- 2 large leeks, white and light green parts only, thinly sliced and well rinsed
- 1 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup dry white wine
- 6 cups beef broth (or chicken broth for a lighter version)
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves (or $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon dried)
- 1 bay leaf

Topping

- 4–6 slices herb focaccia
 - 1½ cups freshly grated Fontina cheese
-

Instructions

1. Caramelize the onions

In a large heavy-bottomed pot or Dutch oven, heat the olive oil and butter over medium heat. Add the yellow onions, red onions, and leeks. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 35–40 minutes, until deeply golden, soft, and caramelized. Reduce heat if needed to prevent burning.

2. Build the flavor

Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute until fragrant. Pour in the white wine, scraping up any browned bits from the bottom of the pot. Simmer for 2–3 minutes until slightly reduced.

3. Simmer the soup

Add the broth, thyme, and bay leaf. Bring to a gentle simmer, cover partially, and cook for 25–30 minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning. Remove the bay leaf.

4. Prepare for broiling

Preheat the broiler. Ladle the soup into oven-safe bowls and place them on a baking sheet.

5. Add the Italian topping

Top each bowl with a slice of herb focaccia, then generously sprinkle with Fontina cheese.

6. Broil

Broil for 2–4 minutes, until the cheese is fully melted, bubbling, and lightly golden. Watch closely.

7. Serve

Serve immediately, hot and bubbling, with extra focaccia on the side if desired.

Instructions

1. First step
 2. Second
 3. And so on
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15 Classic & Italian-Inspired Pasta Recipes

15 Classic & Italian-Inspired Pasta Recipes

Why This Pasta Collection

Pasta has always been at the heart of Italian cooking and at the heart of my kitchen. From humble pantry pastas like **pasta e piselli** to cozy baked dishes and restaurant-style favorites, this pillar post brings together **15 of my most popular pasta recipes already on the blog**—all in one place for easy browsing.

Use this guide to:

- Find the right pasta for the season
- Discover weeknight vs. Sunday sauces
- Navigate sauces by style (tomato, cream, broth, baked)

• 1. Pasta e Piselli (Pasta and Peas)



- A classic Italian comfort dish made with olive oil, onion, peas, and pasta—simple, nostalgic, and budget-friendly. → [Link to recipe](https://lorianasheacooks.com/spring-pasta-e-piselli/)
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2. Authentic Pasta e Fagioli



A childhood favorite featuring beans, pasta, aromatics, and a rich tomato base—rustic Italian cooking at its best.

→ [Link to recipe](https://lorianasheacooks.com/authentic-italian-pasta-e-fagioli/)
<https://lorianasheacooks.com/authentic-italian-pasta-e-fagioli/>

3. Pasta e Ceci (Pasta with



Chickpeas)

A humble Roman-style pasta made with chickpeas, garlic, olive oil, and pasta—simple, nourishing, and deeply comforting.

→ [Link to recipe](#)

- <https://lorianasheacooks.com/italian-pasta-e-ceci-soup/>

Creamy & Cheesy Pasta Recipes

4. One-Pot Pasta and Potatoes



A classic Italian one-pot dish where pasta and potatoes cook together, creating a naturally creamy, comforting sauce.

→ [Link](https://lorianasheacooks.com/one-pot-pasta-with-potatoes/) to recipe
<https://lorianasheacooks.com/one-pot-pasta-with-potatoes/>

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5. Italian Cauliflower Pasta Alfredo



A lighter twist on Alfredo using cauliflower for creaminess without sacrificing flavor.

→ [Link](https://lorianasheacooks.com/italian-cauliflower-pasta-alfredo/) to recipe
<https://lorianasheacooks.com/italian-cauliflower-pasta-alfredo/>

6. Mushroom Pasta alla Norcina



A rich pasta made with mushrooms, cream, and Pecorino Romano—

→ [Link to recipe](https://lorianasheacooks.com/creamy-mushroom-penne-pasta-recipe/)
https://lorianasheacooks.com/creamy-mushroom-penne-pasta-recipe/

Sunday Sauces & Hearty Pastas

7. Classic Meatball Sunday Sauce with Pasta



- A slow-simmered tomato sauce served with pasta—just like Sundays in an Italian kitchen.
 - → [Link to recipehttps://lorianasheacooks.com/meatball-sunday-sauce/](https://lorianasheacooks.com/meatball-sunday-sauce/)
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8. Sausage and Lentil Pasta (New Year's Tradition)



A traditional Italian pasta dish symbolizing luck and prosperity, made with lentils and sausage.

→ [Link](#) to

recipe<https://lorianasheacooks.com/italian-sausage-and-lentil-pasta>

9. Mushroom and Sausage Pasta



A deeply savory sauce made with mushrooms and Italian sausage, perfect for your favorite pasta shape. → [Link to recipe https://lorianasheacooks.com/italian-sausage-and-mushroom-pasta/](https://lorianasheacooks.com/italian-sausage-and-mushroom-pasta/)

Baked Pasta Favorites

10. Baked Spaghetti Pie



A fun and comforting baked pasta dish with layers of spaghetti, cheese, and sauce. → [Link to recipe](https://lorianasheacooks.com/spaghetti-frittata-easter-pie/)
<https://lorianasheacooks.com/spaghetti-frittata-easter-pie/>

11. Easy cheesy stuffed Shells




Large pasta shells filled with cheese and spinach and topped with my easy marinara sauce—perfect for entertaining.

→ [Link to recipe](https://lorianasheacooks.com/easy-cheesy-stuffed-shells/)
<https://lorianasheacooks.com/easy-cheesy-stuffed-shells/>

Seafood Pasta Dishes

12. Spaghetti e Gamberi (Shrimp Spaghetti)



▪  A simple, restaurant-style shrimp pasta with garlic, olive oil, and wine. → [Link to recipe https://lorianasheacooks.com/shrimp-tomato-basil-spaghetti/](https://lorianasheacooks.com/shrimp-tomato-basil-spaghetti/)

13. Seared Scallops with Orzo



▪ A seafood-forward pasta dish with bold flavors and a creamy finish. → [Link to recipe https://lorianasheacooks.com/seared-scallop-creamy-orzo/](https://lorianasheacooks.com/seared-scallop-creamy-orzo/)

Rustic & Regional Pasta Recipes

14. Pasta al Forno (Baked Italian Pasta)



▪ A classic Italian baked pasta layered with sauce, cheese, and pasta—comforting, crowd-pleasing, and perfect for make-ahead meals. → [Link to recipe https://lorianasheacooks.com/baked-pasta-al-forno/](https://lorianasheacooks.com/baked-pasta-al-forno/)

15. Spaghetti Carbonara



A traditional Roman pasta made with eggs, Pecorino Romano, black pepper, and crispy guanciale—simple, rich, and timeless.

→ [Link to recipe](https://lorianasheacooks.com/easy-authentic-spaghetti-carbonara-no-cream/)
<https://lorianasheacooks.com/easy-authentic-spaghetti-carbonara-no-cream/>

Things to know about 15 Classic & Italian-Inspired Pasta Recipes

- **Pasta shapes matter:** Short pastas work best for baked dishes and chunky sauces, while long pastas shine with smooth or egg-based sauces like carbonara.
- **Salt your water well:** Properly salted pasta water is essential for authentic Italian flavor—this is where the pasta gets seasoned.
- **Sauce meets pasta, not the plate:** Always finish cooking pasta in the sauce so the flavors marry together.
- **Traditional doesn't mean complicated:** Many classic Italian pastas use just a handful of ingredients—quality matters more than quantity.
- **Make it your own:** These recipes are rooted in tradition but flexible enough for home cooks.

Italian Broccoli Rabe Pizza

Italian Broccoli Rabe Pizza

In Southern Italy, pizza is often simple. It starts with good dough, olive oil, and what is in season. Italian broccoli rabe pizza (**Cime di rapa**), is a common topping and is loved for its slightly bitter flavor.

This is the kind of pizza I make at home. After many years working in restaurant kitchens, I learned that Italian cooking

does not need a lot of ingredients. It needs balance. For this pizza, Italian sausage adds flavor, while **cannellini beans** make it hearty without feeling heavy.

Everything is cooked together in one pan before going on the pizza. The result is a rustic, olive oil-based pizza that is simple, comforting, and very Italian.

Things to know about this Italian Broccoli Rabe Pizza

- **Blanching the broccoli rabe matters**

A quick blanch removes excess bitterness while keeping its signature flavor intact.

- **Everything cooks in one pan**

Cooking the garlic, sausage, broccoli rabe, and cannellini beans together allows the flavors to layer naturally—no need to remove ingredients or overcomplicate the process

- **Cannellini beans are traditional, not modern**

Beans have long been used in Southern Italy to stretch meals and add body. Lightly mashing a few into the pan creates a natural creaminess without sauce.

*(If you enjoy beans on pizza, you may also like my **Italian Escarole and Beans with Sausage** post.)*

- **Minimal cheese is intentional**

This pizza is olive-oil based. If you use cheese, keep it light—just enough to enhance, not dominate.

*(For dough texture that works best with oil-based toppings, use my over night **Pizza Dough Recipe***





Italian Broccoli Rabe Pizza

Serves: 2–4

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 12–15 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 lb. (450 g) broccoli rabe, trimmed

- 2–3 tbsp **olive oil**, plus more for brushing
- 3 cloves **garlic**, thinly sliced
- 1/2 tsp **red pepper flakes** (optional)
- 6 oz (170 g) **Italian sausage**, casings removed
- ½ cup **cannellini beans**, drained and rinsed
- Salt, to taste
- **12 oz (340 g) pizza dough** (homemade or store-bought – *use my [Pizza Dough Recipe] for best results*)

1–2 tbsp grated **Pecorino Romano**

Instructions

1. Blanch the Broccoli Rabe

Bring a pot of salted water to a boil.

Blanch broccoli rabe **2–3 minutes** until bright green.

Drain well and gently squeeze out excess water.

2. Build the Topping

Heat olive oil in a skillet over medium heat.

Add garlic and red pepper flakes; sauté **30–60 seconds** until fragrant.

Add sausage directly to the pan and cook, breaking it up, until browned and cooked through (**5–6 minutes**).

Add broccoli rabe and cannellini beans directly into the same pan.

Toss and sauté **2–3 minutes**, lightly mashing a few beans so they cream into the oil and sausage fat.

Season lightly with salt. Remove from heat.

3. Prepare the Dough

Preheat oven to **500°F (260°C)** with a pizza stone or baking sheet inside.

Stretch dough into a **12-inch round** on parchment paper.

Brush lightly with olive oil.

4. Assemble

Evenly distribute the broccoli rabe, sausage, and bean mixture over the dough.

Optional: finish with a **very light sprinkle of Pecorino Romano**.

Drizzle with a touch more olive oil.

5. Bake

Slide pizza onto the hot stone or pan.

Bake **12–15 minutes**, until crust is golden and crisp.

Rest 2–3 minutes before slicing.