

# **Italian Green Beans and Potato Salad**

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There's something about the combination of fresh green beans and tender potatoes that always takes me back to family gatherings and summer cookouts. This Italian-style salad is a dish I grew up eating, especially when green beans were plentiful in the garden and new potatoes were just dug up. Unlike creamy American-style potato salad, this version is light, bright, and dressed simply with olive oil, vinegar, garlic, and herbs. It's rustic, refreshing, and full of flavor – the kind of dish that tastes even better after it sits for a little while and the flavors have had a chance to mingle.

What I love most about this salad is its versatility. It's not just for summer picnics – it's perfect anytime of the year. In warmer months, it shines as a light side dish for grilled meats or seafood, while in cooler months, it pairs beautifully with roasted chicken, baked fish, or even a cozy Sunday roast.

## **Things to know about this Italian Green Beans and Potato Salad**

This salad tastes even better after a few hours in the fridge. The potatoes soak up the garlicky vinaigrette, and the green beans keep their crunch. Since it's made without mayo, it's perfect for picnics and potlucks, and it's just as welcome in the middle of summer as it is on a chilly autumn or winter day.

**Variations to Try:**

- Add a handful of kalamata or green olives for a briny bite.
- Make it heartier with canned tuna or sliced hard-boiled eggs.
- Swap the parsley for fresh basil or mint.
- Use fresh lemon juice instead of vinegar for a brighter flavor.

**Love this recipe?** Be sure to check out my other Italian-inspired sides like **Italian crispy roasted potatoes** or Fuyu Persimmon Walnut Salad.

## **Recipe: Italian Green Beans and Potato Salad**

**Servings:** 6

**Cook Time:** 25 minutes

### **Ingredients**

- 1 pound baby potatoes (red or Yukon gold), halved or quartered
- 1 pound fresh green beans, trimmed
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/3 tablespoons red wine vinegar (or white wine vinegar)
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard (optional, for extra tang)
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano

- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes ( adjust to taste )
  - 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped
  
  - Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
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## Instructions

1. **Cook the potatoes:** Place the potatoes in a large pot of salted water. Bring to a boil and cook until just fork-tender, about 12–15 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, remove the potatoes and set aside, keeping the cooking water in the pot.
  2. **Cook the green beans:** In the same pot of boiling water, add the trimmed green beans and cook for 3–4 minutes, until bright green and tender-crisp. Drain and plunge into a bowl of ice water to stop the cooking. Drain again.
  3. **Make the dressing:** In a small bowl, whisk together the olive oil, vinegar, garlic, mustard (if using), oregano, salt, and pepper.
  4. **Assemble the salad:** In a large serving bowl, combine the potatoes, green beans, and sliced red onion. Pour the dressing over the top and toss gently to coat.
  5. **Finish & serve:** Sprinkle with chopped parsley and adjust seasoning with more salt, pepper, or vinegar to taste. Serve warm, at room temperature, or chilled.
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