Minestrone Soup

Description

Noting is more satisfying on a brisk winter day than a bowl of hearty minestrone soup. Minestrone roughly means "the big soup" in Italian, refering to a vegetable style soup with many ingredients. There is no one correct way to make minestrone, but just be sure to include lots of vegetables.

Summary

Yield: 8
Prep Time: 1 hour
Category: Soups
Cuisine: Italian

Ingredients

- 10 cups vegetable or chicken stock
- 1 1/2 cups tomatoes, chopped
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- 1/2 cup brown onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup zucchini, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup mushrooms, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 cups dried cannellini or great northern beans
- 2 carrots, diced
- 1 sprig fresh basil
- 1 sprig fresh oregano
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 tsp dried basil
- 1 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- fresh parmesan cheese (optional)

Instructions

Soak the cannellini beans overnight in cold water. Drain the beans, rinse, and place them in a large stockpot. Add 6 cups of broth. Cover and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cook gently for about 1 hour.

Finely chop the fresh herbs. Add 4 more cups of broth. Add the vegetables, garlic, fresh herbs, dried herbs, salt and pepper to the stock. Bring back up to a boil, and then reduce heat to a simmer for 20 minutes or until vegetables are just tender.

Remove bay leaves. Ladle soup into bowls and sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese.

Notes

Beans will absorb a great deal of liquid while cooking. Add more broth or water to replace lost liquid if needed, or the beans will stick.

This hearty soup is a meal in itself. Serve with crusty bread.