

POMMES SOUFFLÉ

INGREDIENTS

2 large Idaho or Russet potatoes (about 12 ounces each), not too old or too young 4 quarts vegetable oil Kosher or sea salt Béarnaise sauce

BÉARNAISE SAUCE

¹/₂ cup red wine vinegar ¹/₄ cup chopped fresh tarragon leaves ² large shallots, finely chopped ³/₂ tsp. coarsely ground black pepper ⁵ large egg yolks ¹/₄ cups clarified butter Kosher or sea salt and white pepper, preferably freshly ground

PREPARATION

In a large, deep pot or an electric deep fryer, heat the oil to 300°F.

Place a large baking sheet lined with a double layer of paper towels on the work surface.

Peel the potatoes and trim all sides to form the largest rectangles possible. Cut into 1/8" slices - a mandolin will do this beautifully - but in any case, it is vital for the slices to be uniform. Rinse the slices thoroughly in cool water and pat dry with plenty of paper towels.

When the oil has reached the correct temperature, place about one third of the potatoes in a wire basket and submerge in the hot oil. When the potatoes float to the top, lift up the basket and allow the excess oil to drain back into the fryer. As each batch is pre-cooked, transfer to the baking sheet and then fry the remaining batches. The potatoes can stay at room temperature for up to 3 hours before you proceed to the second frying.

Just before you are ready to serve, re-heat the oil (or increase the temperature if serving right away) to the smoking point, about 450°F. Return the potatoes to the fryer in batches. They should puff up immediately. Fry until golden brown, dry, and crisp. As each batch is cooked, remove from the oil and drain on paper towels. Salt lightly and serve immediately on napkin-lined plates, with Béarnaise sauce if desired.

BÉARNAISE SAUCE

In a medium saucepan, combine the vinegar, tarragon, shallots and pepper. Place the pan over high heat, bring to a boil and cook until the liquid has almost completely evaporated, leaving a moist but not wet mixture. Remove from heat and set aside at room temperature until just barely warm.

Transfer the mixture to the top of a double boiler. Over gently simmering - but not boiling - water, add the egg yolks and whisk for a minute or two, until the mixture is pale yellow, slightly thickened and the base of the pan is visible as you whisk. Begin adding the clarified butter very slowly in a thin stream, continuing to whisk all the time. After about 1/3 of the butter has successfully been whisked into the emulsified sauce, you may add the butter a little more quickly. Season to take with salt and white pepper.

PLEASE ENJOY THIS FAMOUS RECIPE FROM ARNAUD'S PROVIDED BY CORPORATE REALTY

Special thanks to John Magill and The Historic New Orleans Collection, a museum and research center for Louisiana State and New Orlean's history, for providing photographs, menus and postcards. www.hnoc.org

201 SAINT CHARLES AVENUE, SUITE 4411, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70170, 504.581.5005, WWW.CORP-REALTY.COM