

fume Bistro & Bar Cabernet & Balsamic Braised Lamb Shanks with Lemon Gremolata paired with Crocker & Starr 2001 Stone Place Cuvee – Winemaker Pam Starr

Ingredients: (Serves 6)

6 lamb shanks, about 1 # each
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
½ c duck fat (sub vegetable oil)
2 onions, peeled and finely sliced
2 carrots, diced medium
2 stalks celery, diced medium
3T chopped garlic
2 bay leaves
6 tomatoes, cut into 1/8's
1 c Balsamic Vinegar
Zest from 2 lemons

4 sprigs thyme 8 parsley stems 2 c Cabernet 2 c Veal or beef stock-or use canned 2 T chopped parsley (from stems)

Preparation:

- 1. Preheat oven to 300 F degrees.
- 2. Dry the lamb shanks with paper towels and sprinkle them generously with salt and pepper. In a 5 inch deep Dutch oven (or other large oven proof pot with a lid), heat oil over medium-high until very hot but not smoking. Add the shanks in single layer and cook until well browned on all sides, 10 15 minutes. Transfer the shanks to a platter as they are done.
- 3. Pour off all but 2 tbsp. fat from the pot. Add the onions and cook, stirring occasionally, (until translucent, about 7 to 9 minutes). Add the carrots and celery and stir occasionally, for about 5 minutes. Add 2 T garlic, thyme, parsley stems and bay leaf and stir for 1 minute or more.
- 4. Return the lamb to the pot and pour in the wine, vinegar and stock. (The liquid should come about halfway up the sides of the shanks. Bring to a simmer, stirring to incorporate any brown crusty stuff in the bottom. Skim any film from the surface. Cover and place in the oven to cook until the lamb is tender. (About 1-1/2 to 2 hrs.)
- 5. While the shanks are braising, make the Gremolata. Put chopped garlic, 2T chopped parsley and the lemon zest in a mortar and pestle and press until combined. Reserve for garnish
- 6. When the shanks are done, transfer them to a platter and cover with foil. Skim the fat from the braising liquid. Reduce the liquid by ½ or until it coats the back of a spoon. Strain the sauce into a clean pot, add the cooked shanks, cover and keep warm.
- 7. Serve on soft polenta or mashed potatoes with braising sauce and a sprinkle of Gremolata.

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