

Pizza and Salad

I love celebrating Friday with a homemade pizza. Hopefully you have saved some red sauce to start the party. If not, it goes together quickly. Maybe you even have crust, or some dough frozen just for this occasion. You can also use a frozen, store-bought crust. Check your salad fixings to be sure you have everything you need to finish the meal. If you're making homemade crust, throw the dough together 2 hours before you wish to dine.

Chop one browned plant-based sausage (Field Roast makes an excellent Apple Sausage or Italian Sausage). This recipe makes one 12" pizza. **Preparation time: 40 minutes - Servings: 2**

Organize Your Ingredients!

Notes on Organizing

Prep and organize ingredients before you start assembling. It's nice to have everything at your fingertips. There are two onion preps: 1/2 C. chopped in the marinara sauce and 1/3 C. sliced on the pizza. Also the marinara sauce uses a total of 1-2/3 C. red wine and 4 cloves of chopped garlic.

Marinara Sauce

1 tsp. olive oil
4 cloves garlic (smashed and chopped)
1/2 C. red wine
1/2 C. yellow onion (chopped)

one 15 oz. can no-salt diced tomatoes
one 15 oz. can regular tomato sauce
another 1/2 C. red wine

2 T. dry basil leaves
1 T. dry oregano leaves
a few dashes Tabasco sauce

1 tsp. olive oil
remaining 1/2 of the chopped garlic
another 2/3 C. red wine

Sausage and Pizza Sauce

Sausage:

1 cooked plant-based sausage (Field Roast Apple Sausage or equivalent)

-or-

1 cooked Italian sausage of choice

Pizza Sauce:

2/3 C. Marinara sauce
2 T. shredded Parmesan cheese

Crust and Toppings/Dressing

Crust:

1 homemade crust (Tips and Time Savers)
or
one 12" frozen pizza crust

Toppings:

1 tsp. olive oil
8 cremini mushrooms (washed and sliced)
1/3 C. yellow onion (thin-sliced)
1/2 C. red bell pepper (chopped)
4 pitted Kalamata olives (chopped)
1/3 C. shredded Parmesan cheese

Salad and Dressing

Fixings for a green salad

Il Simplicio Dressing:

3 T. extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 tsp. prepared mustard
2 T. rice wine or white vinegar
3 T. low-sodium vegetable broth
pinch of salt

Preheat oven to 425°!

Let's Prepare, Cook, and Plate This!

Basic Assembly Instructions.

Once you've made homemade marinara sauce, you're good to go.

Marinara Sauce

1. Toss 1/2 of the chopped garlic in olive oil over medium-high heat until garlic starts to turn golden brown. Add 1/2 C. red wine and bring to boil. Cook 1 minute.
2. Add onion and toss until wine is almost gone.
3. Add tomato sauce (rinse cans with additional second 1/2 C. red wine and add to sauce.)
4. Add spices and Tabasco. Bring to boil. Cover, reduce heat to low and cook 10-minutes.
5. Using a separate sauté pan, brown two remaining cloves chopped garlic in oil. Add another 2/3 C. wine, bring to a boil, cook for about a minute and turn off heat.
6. Add this additional wine and garlic to the large pan. Stir well and remove from burner.

Sausage and Pizza Sauce

Field Roast Apple Sausage:

Remove plastic casings from Field Roast sausages and slice sausage link in half lengthwise before cooking. Brown on the stovetop. Allow to cool slightly and cut into thin half rounds for use on pizza. Brown optional sausages before slicing or adding to the pizza toppings.

Pizza Sauce: Measure 2/3 C. marinara sauce into a medium-sized bowl. Stir 2 T. shredded Parmesan into the sauce. Cover and microwave on high for 3 minutes. Stir well and set aside.

Crust:

Crust and Toppings

A homemade crust simply gets shaped and placed on a pizza pan. Arrange toppings over crust.

If using a frozen crust, before assembling pizza, place crust directly on oven rack in center of a preheated 425° oven and bake 3 minutes. (Set a timer so you don't forget.) Remove crust from oven and place on a lightly-oiled pizza pan or cookie sheet. Arrange toppings over crust.

Toppings:

1. Brown sliced mushrooms in oil in a sauté pan. Set aside.
2. Spread pizza sauce on crust and arrange all topping items (including mushrooms) over sauce.
3. Cover with 1/3 C. shredded Parmesan. Return to the oven for 12-14 minutes or until pizza crust is brown around the edges.
4. Remove pizza from oven. Cut into 8 wedges while hot. Let cool a few minutes before dining.

Salad and Dressing

Make Salads and dressing while pizza cooks. Simply shake dressing ingredients together in a container with a tight-fitting lid. Serve salads on the side.

What I've Learned from this Recipe

You may wonder why I slice Field Roast sausages lengthwise and brown them before I use them in recipes? When their browned, the additional caramelization on the exposed surfaces really enhances the flavor.

Let us know what you think, and ask any questions you may have! chezdon@plate6.com