Sicilian Caponata

Monday, May 23, 2022

6:54 AM

Ingredients

1 large eggplant, cut into 1-inch cubes

1 TBS Kosher salt

Extra virgin olive oil

1 yellow onion chopped

1 red bell pepper cored and chopped

2 small celery stalks thinly sliced

Black pepper

1 cup crushed tomatoes

2 TBS capers

1 large zucchini

1/4 Cup pitted green olives roughly chopped

¼ Cup raisins

2 Tsp honey more to your liking

1 bay leaf

¼ Tsp to ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

1/4 Cup red wine vinegar

¼ Cup dry white wine

2 TBS chopped fresh parsley

2 TBS chopped fresh mint

INSTRUCTIONS

Heat the oven to 400 degrees F.

Season the eggplant cubes with salt (if you have the time, set it aside in a colander to sweat out its bitterness for about 20 or 30 minutes, while you prepare the remaining ingredients. Pat dry with paper towel).

Place the seasoned eggplant cubes on a sheet pan, add a generous drizzle of extra virgin olive oil (about 3 tablespoons or so) and toss to coat. Roast the eggplant in the heated oven for 25 to 30 minutes or until browned.

Heat 2 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil in a large skillet. Add the onions, bell pepper, and celery. Season with a pinch of kosher salt and black pepper. Cook for about 5 to 7 minutes, tossing regularly until softened.

Add the tomatoes, capers, olives, raisins, honey, bay leaf and crushed pepper flakes. Pour in the vinegar and white wine. Stir to combine. Simmer on medium-low heat for 10 minutes. Stir in the roasted eggplant and cook for another 2 to 3 minutes in the sauce.

Finish with fresh parsley and mint.

Note: This dish can be modified with mussels, chorizo and shrimp.