

Tomato, corn & basil soup: A hearty New England classic

Sunday, October 7, 2007, 4:00 AM

TOMATO, CORN AND BASIL SOUP

Makes 12 servings.

From Marjorie Druker and Clara Silverstein's "New England Soup Factory Cookbook." Published by Thomas Nelson.

3 tablespoons butter or olive oil

2 large Spanish onions, peeled and diced

5 carrots, peeled and sliced

2 ribs celery, sliced

4 cloves garlic, minced

8 large, ripe, red tomatoes, peeled and cut into chunks

8 cups vegetable or chicken stock

3 cups tomato juice

1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste

2 teaspoons sugar

1 bunch chopped fresh basil leaves

1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

kernels from 5 ears corn

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

In a stockpot, heat the butter or olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the onions, carrots, celery and garlic. Sauté for 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Add the tomatoes and sauté an additional five minutes. Add the stock, tomato juice and tomato paste. Bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium and simmer, covered, for 25 to 30 minutes, or until all the vegetables are soft and tender.

Add the sugar, fresh basil and vinegar.

Puree the soup in the pot, using a hand blender or working in batches with a regular blender until smooth. Add the corn kernels to the soup and return the pot to medium-high heat. Simmer for an additional 5 to 7 minutes until the corn is cooked and the soup is heated through. Season with salt and pepper.



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