

Skillet Chicken With Tomatoes, Pancetta and Mozzarella

By Melissa Clark

Time 45 minutes

Rating 5 ★★★★★ (3126)

With a topping of tomato sauce and fresh mozzarella, it's no wonder that I always think of this easy skillet dish as "pizza chicken." It's a tangy, milky, gooey, lovable meal that's somewhat reminiscent of chicken Parmesan, but with succulent bone-in chicken pieces instead of breaded and fried cutlets. Even better, it has pancetta and anchovies for complexity of flavor, and the whole thing comes together in under an hour.

INGREDIENTS

Yield: 4 servings

3½ pounds bone-in chicken pieces (or use a 3½ pound chicken cut into 8 pieces)
2 teaspoons kosher salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
5 ounces pancetta, diced
3 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
2 anchovy fillets
¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
1 (28-ounce) can whole plum tomatoes
1 large basil sprig, plus more chopped basil for serving
8 ounces bocconcini, halved (or use mozzarella cut into ¾-inch pieces)

PREPARATION

Step 1

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Pat chicken dry and season with salt and pepper.

Step 2

In a large oven-proof skillet, warm oil over medium-high heat. Add pancetta and cook, stirring frequently, until browned. Use a slotted spoon to transfer pancetta to a paper-towel-lined plate.

Step 3

Add chicken to skillet. Sear, turning only occasionally, until well browned on all sides, about 10 minutes. Transfer to a large plate. Pour off all but 1 tablespoon oil.

Step 4

Add garlic, anchovy and red pepper flakes to skillet; fry 1 minute. Stir in tomatoes and basil. Cook, breaking up tomatoes with a spatula, until sauce thickens somewhat, about 10 minutes.

Step 5

Return chicken to skillet. Transfer skillet to oven and cook, uncovered, until chicken is no longer pink, about 30 minutes.

Step 6

Scatter bocconcini or mozzarella pieces over skillet. Adjust oven temperature to broil. Return skillet to oven and broil until cheese is melted and bubbling, 2 to 3

minutes (watch carefully to see that it does not burn). Garnish with pancetta and chopped basil before serving.

Private Notes

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