Dowfold House Kedgeree

Makes 6 portions

Ingredients

Same weight of filleted smoked haddock as Basmati (or Arborio) rice Milk for poaching fish and cooking rice – at least twice as much milk as rice, by volume (more for Arborio rice option) Butter (for Arborio rice option) Bay leaf (or two) Peppercorns Paprika and/or Cayenne pepper Freshly ground black pepper Cream or Crème fraiche Hard-boiled eggs Lemon wedges Cherry tomatoes, with salt, sugar basil and thyme as seasoning Chive for garnish



Method

To prepare:

Poach the fish in the milk, with peppercorns and bay leaves. Set fish aside, and strain the poaching liquor. Cook the basmati rice in double the quantity of poaching liquor – a la Delia – for 15 minutes. Check that the rice has absorbed all the liquor by tilting the pan.

Optionally use Arborio rice. Cook the rice by tossing it in butter in a frying pan until the rice is well coated. Add the strained hot poaching liquor, one ladleful at a time, stir until the liquid is absorbed, then add another ladleful. Note that some 4 parts liquor are needed per part of rice; I use the milk liquor and add some vegetable stock. Season with paprika/cayenne and black pepper. Once the mixture is firm, but the rice is well swelled and soft, the rice is cooked.

Flake the fish into recognisable pieces; do not break it up too much. Place in a bowl with the rice and season with cayenne pepper and ground black pepper to taste. Add a spoonful of cream to add moisture.

Pack the mixture into muffin moulds to create 150 ml timbale-like portions, and freeze. Once frozen, place the muffin mould in warm water to free off the timbales, and pack in the freezer until required

To serve:

Place the timbale in the microwave and heat on maximum for 90 seconds. Place on a dish in a double boiler and steam for 10 minutes. In the meantime, hard-boil 1 egg per portion - 9-10 minutes in boiling water – and slice in 2 or 4 long-ways. Lightly fry tomatoes in butter until they begin to soften and add the seasoning to the pan.

Place the timbale on the serving plate, add the sliced hard-boiled egg wedges and garnish with the tomatoes and wedges of lemon. Pour a little of the buttery seasoning over the tomatoes and garnish the timbale with crossed chive leaves.