

Essentials: Pork Tacos at Home



Ingredients

1 teaspoon pepper black freshly ground plus more to taste
28 ounce canned tomatoes whole with their juices crushed canned
1.5 tablespoons canola oil
0.5 cup citrus champagne vinegar plus more to taste
1 small bunch cilantro leaves
24 flour tortilla
2 teaspoons kosher salt plus more to taste
2 teaspoons chipotles in adobo smoked spanish plus more to taste [i use 3 or 4 chipotles]

	4 large plum tomatoes cored	
	6 pound pork butt (or Boston butt, if you prefer)	
	1 onion red	
	2 tablespoons sorghum syrup plus more to taste [i use honey]	
	1 medium onion yellow trimmed peeled quartered	
Eq	juipment	
	frying pan	
	oven	
	knife	
	pot	
	wooden spoon	
	stove	
	dutch oven	
	cutting board	
Directions		
	Preheat the oven to 400°F.	
	In a large enameled cast-iron stockpot or Dutch oven, bring the canned tomatoes, paprika, sorghum molasses, and 6 tablespoons vinegar to simmer over medium heat. (The authors recommend a 6-quart pot, but in my experience that is not large enough to hold these ingredients plus, later, the pork. I use a 9 1/2-quart Dutch oven, which is a little roomy but works fine. I suspect 7 1/2 quarts would be perfect.)	
	Set the pork skin side up on your work surface. Use a sharp knife to slice the skin from the shoulder with a gentle sawing motion, working back from the point diagonally across from the leg end where the skin forms a corner (you can ask your butcher to do this to save yourself time). Leave a thin layer of fat on the shoulder. Season the pork with the salt and black pepper.	
	Pour the oil into a 12-inch skillet or sauté pan and heat over a high flame. When the oil shimmers and just begins to smoke, put the pork in the pan, skinned side down, and sear unti golden brown all over, about 3 minutes per side. Lower the pork, skinned side down, into the pot with the tomato braising liquid.	

Add the plum tomatoes and onion to the skillet and cook, turning every few minutes, until the tomato skins blister and blacken and the onion is caramelized on all sides. Tuck the vegetables around the pork in the pot.
Add the remaining 2 tablespoons vinegar to the skillet and stir with a wooden spoon, scraping up any caramelized pork, tomato, and onion bits from the bottom.
Pour over the pork.
Cover the pot, transfer to the oven, and cook for 30 minutes. Baste the pork, then turn the heat down to 300°F and continue to cook, basting every 30 minutes, until the pork is tender, about 2 1/2 hours. For pork so tender it falls from the bone—the kind suitable for barbecue sandwiches or tacos—cook 1 hour longer for a total of 3 1/2 hours.
Remove the pot from the oven and the pork from the pot.
Let the pork cook on a cutting board. Season the sauce in the pot with molasses, vinegar, salt, pepper, and smoked paprika to taste (it usually tastes pretty good to me without further seasoning).
When the pork is cool enough to handle, pull it into shreds. I'm not going to lie to you—this is pretty gross, because the muscles in the shoulder are very articulated and, well, muscle—y. But you can't run from the fact that you're eating an animal here, so fortify yourself with a beer and get to it. Refrigerate the pulled pork overnight in a container with the sauce.
When the time comes to serve the tacos, reheat the pork gently in its sauce on top of the stove. Chop the cilantro and slice the onion very thin. Warm the flour tortillas (I do this in a skillet, individually, but this gets really tiresome with so many tortillas—any great ideas out there about how to warm a bunch of tortillas at once and still have them taste and feel good?)
Let your guests build their own tacos, adding as much cilantro and onion as they like. The Lee brothers recommend using 1/4 cup pork and sauce per taco.
Nutrition Facts
PROTEIN 37% FAT 33.57% CARBS 29.43%

Properties

Glycemic Index:28.5, Glycemic Load:17, Inflammation Score:-8, Nutrition Score:49.481304044309%

Flavonoids

Naringenin: 0.21mg, Naringenin: 0.21mg, Naringenin: 0.21mg, Naringenin: 0.21mg Luteolin: 0.01mg, Luteolin: 0.01mg, Luteolin: 0.01mg, Luteolin: 0.01mg, Luteolin: 0.01mg, Luteolin: 0.01mg, Luteolin: 1.38mg, Isorhamnetin: 1.38mg, Isorhamnetin: 1.38mg, Isorhamnetin: 1.38mg, Isorhamnetin: 1.38mg, Isorhamnetin: 0.01mg, Kaempferol: 0.21mg, Kaempferol: 0.21mg, Kaempferol: 0.21mg, Kaempferol: 0.21mg, Myricetin: 0.05mg, Myricetin: 0.05mg, Myricetin: 0.05mg, Quercetin: 6.29mg, Quercetin: 6.29mg, Quercetin: 6.29mg, Quercetin: 6.29mg

Nutrients (% of daily need)

Calories: 813.05kcal (40.65%), Fat: 29.74g (45.76%), Saturated Fat: 9.7g (60.62%), Carbohydrates: 58.67g (19.56%), Net Carbohydrates: 52.35g (19.04%), Sugar: 9.78g (10.87%), Cholesterol: 204.12mg (68.04%), Sodium: 1600.46mg (69.59%), Alcohol: Og (100%), Alcohol %: O% (100%), Protein: 73.77g (147.54%), Selenium: 116.76µg (166.8%), Vitamin B1: 2.46mg (163.95%), Vitamin B3: 20.45mg (102.27%), Vitamin B6: 2.03mg (101.72%), Vitamin B2: 1.63mg (96.02%), Phosphorus: 932.44mg (93.24%), Zinc: 12.29mg (81.93%), Vitamin B5: 5.82mg (58.25%), Vitamin B12: 3.1µg (51.6%), Iron: 9.09mg (50.49%), Potassium: 1697.52mg (48.5%), Manganese: 0.79mg (39.29%), Copper: 0.66mg (32.94%), Magnesium: 121.95mg (30.49%), Folate: 108.04µg (27.01%), Fiber: 6.32g (25.3%), Calcium: 226.26mg (22.63%), Vitamin C: 15.76mg (19.1%), Vitamin K: 19.68µg (18.74%), Vitamin E: 2.72mg (18.11%), Vitamin D: 2.04µg (13.61%), Vitamin A: 541.02IU (10.82%)