

Fin Boys Fish Curry

INGREDIENTS:

- 600g skinless firm white fish such as blue-eye or groper
- 2 tbsp ground turmeric
- 80ml (1/3 cup) lime juice
- 400ml coconut milk
- 1½ tbsp vegetable oil, plus extra for deep-frying
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- 1 tsp brown mustard seeds
- 6 curry leaves
- 2 tsp ground coriander seeds
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- 2 tsp ground chilli
- 2 tbsp fish sauce
- 3 tbsp tamarind purée (or to taste)
- 90g rice flour
- Fried shallots, fried curry leaves, torn Thai basil leaves and steamed rice, to serve

CUCUMBER SALAD

- 2 telegraph cucumbers, bruised with the side of a knife and coarsely chopped
- 10g (about 2cm) ginger, cut into julienne
- 2 long red chillies, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 80ml (1/3 cup) rice wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp caster sugar
- 1 tsp sesame oil

CURRY PASTE

- 100g frozen shredded coconut or 80g desiccated coconut
- ½ red onion, coarsely chopped
- ½ Roma tomato, coarsely chopped
- 40g ginger, coarsely chopped
- 8 garlic cloves, coarsely chopped
- 2 long green chillies, coarsely chopped
- 40g fresh turmeric, coarsely chopped
- 150g ghee, melted

CORIANDER CHUTNEY

- 150g Greek yoghurt
- 15g (about 3cm) ginger, coarsely chopped
- 1 small garlic clove, coarsely chopped
- 4 spring onions, coarsely chopped
- 1 jalapeño, coarsely chopped
- 1 cup (firmly packed) coriander
- ½ cup (firmly packed) mint
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 2 tsp honey
- 2 tbsp lime juice

METHOD:

- 1. For the cucumber salad, toss cucumber with 2 tbsp salt in a bowl. Stand for 15 minutes to draw out moisture, then drain. Add remaining ingredients, toss to combine, refrigerate overnight to marinate, then season to taste.
- 2. Combine fish, turmeric, lime juice and 100ml coconut milk in a bowl, cover, and refrigerate overnight to marinate.
- 3. For curry paste, blend ingredients in a blender to a thick paste.
- 4. Heat oil in a saucepan over medium heat, add mustard seeds and curry leaves and let them crackle for a few seconds. Add curry paste and stir-fry until fragrant and oil starts to split out (4-6 minutes). Add spices, remaining coconut milk and fish sauce, simmer over low heat, stirring often, until curry is reduced, holds its shape when stirred and fat separates (20-30 minutes). Season to taste with tamarind and 1 tsp salt.
- 5. Meanwhile, for coriander chutney, blend ingredients and 1 tsp salt in a blender until smooth, then chill until needed.
- 6. Heat oil in a deep saucepan to 180°C. Add rice flour to a bowl with fish and stir to coat fish, creating a thick batter. Deep-fry fish in small batches until crisp (3-5 minutes; be careful, hot oil will spit). Drain on paper towels, then add fish to curry. Remove curry from heat and stand for 5 minutes.
- 7. Top curry with shallots, curry leaves and basil, and serve with rice, coriander chutney and cucumber salad.

Fin Boys

No.2 Mill Road, Cambridge Fin-boys.com info@fin-boys.com
01223 354045
@thefinboys