

Minnesota-Madras Vegetarian Hot Dish

By Anusha Kannan & Kannan Kasturi



INGREDIENTS

Layer 1 - Channa Masala

Chickpeas - 2 cans

Tomatoes - 3 medium sized

Onions - 2 medium sized

Cashews - 15 pieces

Cardamom - 3 pods

Cinnamon - ½ inch

Cumin seeds – 2 tsp

Turmeric - 2tsp

Kashmiri chilli powder – 1/2 tbsp

Chole masala – 2 tbsp

Garam masala – 3 tsp

Cilantro - to garnish

Salt - ½ tsp

Ghee - 2 tbsp

Layer 2 - Paneer Bhurji

1 tablespoon ghee

1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds

1/4 teaspoon hing asafoetida

1 medium red onion chopped

2 tbsp ginger-garlic paste

2 medium tomatoes de-seeded & chopped

1 teaspoon coriander powder

3/4 teaspoon garam masala

1/4 teaspoon turmeric powder

1/4 teaspoon red chili powder

3/4 teaspoon salt or to taste

2 blocks paneer crumbled, around 2 cups crumbled paneer

DIRECTIONS

Channa Masala

- 1. Add 2 tsp of ghee to a pan. Then add onion and sauté until it browns.
- 2. Then add green chili and tomato and salt and cashew nuts. Let this cook for 3 mins.
- 3. Grind to a fine paste.
- 4. In a pan, take 2 tsp ghee and add cumin seeds, cinnamon, chili powder, turmeric.
- 5. Then add the ground mixture and chole masala. Let this cook for 5 mins.
- 6. Now add the canned chickpeas after draining the liquid.
- 7. Then grind $\frac{1}{2}$ cup coconut and cardamom seeds.
- 8. Add this to the mixture in the pan.
- 9. Let this all cook for 5 mins.
- 10. Finally add garam masala and garnish with cilantro.

Paneer Bhurji

- 1. Crumble the paneer and set it aside.
- 2. Heat oil and ghee in a pan on medium heat.
- 3. Then add the cumin seeds and let them sizzle for few seconds.
- 4. Then add the hing, chili powder, turmeric, ginger garlic paste, garam masala and stir.
- 5. Add the chopped onion and stir. Cook for 5 minutes until light browned.
- 6. Add the chopped tomatoes and cook for 3 minutes until softened.
- 7. Then add the crumbled paneer and mix everything together. Cook the paneer for 2 to 3 minutes. Do not overcook else it will become rubbery and chewy.

Layer 3 - Roasted Veggies

Sweet Potato – 1

Butternut squash – 4–5 ozs

Red bell pepper – 2

Green bell peppers – 2

Cauliflower – 2 cups

Black pepper

Ghee

Salt

Layer 4 - Toppings

Cocktail or mini samosa – 16-20 pieces
Green chutney
Tamarind chutney
Cilantro
Cranberry sauce – 1 can
Kashmiri chili powder – 1 tsp
Coriander seeds – 2 tsp
Cumin seeds – 1 tsp

Roasted Veggies

- 1. Preheat the oven to 400F.
- 2. Massage cubed butternut squash and sweet potato in ghee. Add pepper and salt.
- 3. Bake it for 20 min. Turn in between.
- 4. Cut the bell peppers lengthwise and cut cauliflower.
- 5. Add 2 tsp ghee to a pan and saute all the vegetables including the squash and sweet potato for few minutes.

Toppings

Cranberry chutney:

- 1. Dry roast coriander seeds and cumin seeds for 2 mins.
- 2. Then crush them in a pestle or powder coarsely in a mixer.
- 3. In a pan take 2 tsp of ghee and then add cumin seeds, canned cranberry sauce and Kashmiri chili powder.
- 4. Let it all boil for 3 mins.
- 5. Then add the ground powder and turn off the stove.

Final assembly

- 1. Add channa masala to ¼ of the 9x13 baking pan and top it with 3 tbsps of chopped cilantro.
- 2. Then add ¼ inch of paneer bhurji. Add green chutney on top of this layer and spread it all around.
- 3. Top this layer with the roasted vegetables. Then add more cilantro and green chutney.
- 4. Finally top it with samosas (arranging just like how tater tots would be arranged).
- 5. Add mozzarella cheese.
- 6. Bake for 30 minutes.
- 7. After 30 minutes, remove from oven and let it rest for 10 minutes.
- 8. Then top the hot dish with more chopped cilantro, green chutney, tamarind chutney, cranberry chutney and finally with sev.