

Crock Pot Pork and Prunes



You will never think of prunes as old people food ever again once you taste this delicious pork!

A few years ago, my husband and I went to France to celebrate our anniversary. It was an amazing adventure and I am forever grateful to everyone that helped coordinate taking over our daily chaos so we could get away. We loved the wine and the micro-brews, but what we found most delectable was the food and how the regional influences changed the flavors depending where we were located. It shouldn't be too much of a surprise—from coast to coast, America certainly offers different flavors and flare when it comes to regional cooking, too!

So I'm going to create two dishes in my crock pot that mirror some of our favorite dinners that we experienced. Unfortunately, I can't run over to the *boulangerie* and grab a baguette for dinner and some croissants for breakfast, but I'm still pretty certain that I can recreate some of the tastes while building new memories as well.

France Revisited Recipe #1: Crock Pot Pork and Prunes

(you can also do this with a turkey tenderloin, if you prefer)



Take a quick trip to France with this delightful dish!

As it turns out, I'm not sure that the combination of pork and prunes is really particular to France. I think that Italy, Scandinavia and other places in Europe also do this dish well and vary the ingredients just enough to claim it's origin!

The most challenging part of this recipe is preparing the pork. So let's go step-by-step through it. First of all, rinse of the tenderloin and pat it dry. This isn't a marbled cut of meat, most of the fat is attached to the outside, including a membrane that might appear cloudy. Remove the membrane (go on and grab it and pull it off) and cut off any excess fat.

In order to stuff the tenderloin, you need a hole through it. The easiest way I've found to do this is with an apple corer. Not kidding! Lay the tenderloin flat and cut my tenderloin in half. Skewer the meat with the apple corer and pull out the perfectly cylindrical meat tube. YES— this is totally gross, but totally easy. You might need to core the meat from both ends in order to have a complete tunnel. I couldn't get a picture of doing this, because both my hands were covered with raw meat and I couldn't grab my phone.

Next step... get over the fact that you just handled all that flesh. Moving on...

It seems like there isn't enough liquid in this recipe, but it's ok. The meat, the prunes and the onions all release enough liquid to keep moisture in the pot. If your crock pot tends to cook hot, then be cautious before going over 4 hours—you don't want the meat to dry out.

Bon appetit!

Crock Pot Pork with Prunes

Serves 4-6

2 lb. pork tenderloin

1/4 sweet onion, minced

12 pitted prunes, diced

1 T. Herbs de Provence



It just takes a few easy steps to create a tunnel in the pork tenderloin and prepare it for the prune stuffing.

Prep tenderloin by removing membrane and excess fat and then slicing a tunnel through the meat with an apple corer (see directions above). In a bowl, mix prunes, onions, and seasonings. Stuff mixture inside tenderloin. Place tenderloin

on rack inside crock pot and top meat with any remaining bits of the mixture. Cook on low for 4 hours or until meat is cooked through. Remove rack from crock pot and let meat stand for 5 minutes before slicing.

Voila! Enjoy!

Crock Pot Turkey Legs

Thanksgiving might just be one of my favorite holidays. There is something about preparing so many amazing dishes all day long and then sitting around the table with friends and family as we all ooh and ahhh about the foods. That feeling should not just be reserved for one or two days a year! Therefore, I am offering up a delicious new way of preparing turkey and I suggest serving it with ONE of your favorite side dishes from Thanksgiving.

I think most people are fans of turkey's white meat, but I actually prefer the dark meat. It's juicier, has more flavor and has a much less likelihood of getting dried out when cooked. Also, turkey legs are really inexpensive to buy, compared to buying a whole bird, and still tastes amazing. When you make this recipe, the meat will literally fall off of the bone, it is soft and moist without tasting greasy or fatty.

Herbs de provence sounds more foreign than it tastes. I like easy seasonings that blend together in harmony. It's a sultry combination of thyme, rosemary, basil, tarragon and lavender flowers. It's great on meats or can add lots of flavor to

soups and vegetable dishes.

My brother said this recipe is "caveman chic". There's no need to be savage, all the meat falls off the bones before serving it. But if you prefer to dive in without silverware, at least you have the lavender flowers in the herbs de provence to make you seem a little civilized.

3-4 turkey legs (about 2-2.5 lbs)

1 T. olive oil

2 T. herbs de provence

Coat crock pot with non-stick spray so the turkey skin doesn't stick to the pot too much. Place legs in pot and then brush lightly with olive oil. Shake herbs de provence all over turkey legs. Cook for 6 hours on low.