THE MEXICAN VEGETARIAN COOKBOOK



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CHILAQUILES IN PASILLA CHILE SAUCE





CHILAQUILES IN PASILLA CHILE SAUCE

REGION: CENTRAL MEXICO COOKING TIME: 15 MINUTES PREPARATION TIME: 20 MINUTES SERVES: 4

12 medium corn tortillas, each cut into 8 triangles, fried in oil until crisp ¾ cup (6 fl oz/180 ml) heavy (double) cream 7 oz/200 g Oaxacan or Manchego cheese, grated

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For the chilaquiles sauce 8 big, ripe, tomatoes, dry-roasted, peeled and seeded ¼ onion, minced 4 large pasilla chiles, dry-roasted, seaeded, and soaked in hot water for 15 minutes 1½ tablespoons corn oil sea salt

> To serve thinly sliced red onion Mexican cream or crème fraîche

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Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C/Gas Mark 4).

Put the roasted tomatoes, onion, chiles and their soaking water, and salt to taste in a food processor or blender, and blend until combined. Heat the oil in a pan, add the sauce, and cook for 5 minutes.

Place a layer of fried tortilla pieces in an earthenware casserole or ovenproof dish, then add a layer of sauce, a layer of cream, and a layer of cheese. Repeat the layers to use up all the ingredients, finishing with a layer of cheese. Cover with a lid or foil and place in the oven for a few minutes to melt the cheese. (If you are using a flameproof dish, you can also heat the casserole by placing it on the stove.)

Serve hot, garnished with red onion and with Mexican cream on the side.

CHEF'S TIP: For the chilaquiles to stay crispy, assemble quickly and have the sauce boiling hot.

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