

Byrd's itchem

by Vivian Byrd

Some favorite asparagus recipes

Even without my usual two or three checks eekly, the asparagus arrived.

The quality doesn't seem as good to me this year

The quality doesn't seem as good to me his year as in past years. After purchasing from several sources (a move motivated by the thought that our regular grocer's supply might not be an indicator of the whole season's crop), we concluded that we had enjoyed only one bunch of asparagus this season with really excellent flavor. The rest were just so-so. I wouldn't push the others off the plate, as the saying goes, but they were definitely mediocre.

GENERALLY, I prefer asparagus plain with a little butter and a few drops of lemon juice, but this seemed the year to try other ways with this highly prized vegetable.

prized vegetable.

To prepare asparagus, first remove the tough ends. Use a small sharp knife to peel the stalk to a point just below the tips. Cook in a double boiler or deep kettle. Stand the stalks in about 2 inches of boiling salted water. Cover with the upper postion of the double boiler or the kettle lid and cook until just tender. The lower portion boils, the upper portion dearn. Drain and serve with melted butter. Hollandaise

or other sauces. Buy two pounds for four servings.

ASPARAGUS WITH FRESH TOMATO SAUCE

ASPARAGUS WITH FRESH TOMATO SAUCE 5 cup mayonnaise 114 tsp. lemon Julce 44 tsp. sal! 4 tsp. sal! Plinch of white pepper 5 cup disconline first four ingredients in the top of a dou-Combine first four ingredients in the top of a dou-Combine first four ingredients in the top of a dou-Combine first four ingredients in the top of a dou-Combine first four ingredients in the top of a dought for the four in the first four ingredients in the top of a dought for the first four ingredients in the first four ingredients in the first four ingredients for the first four ingredients in the first four ingredients in the first four ingredients for the first four ingredients in the first four in

ASPARAGUS SALAD

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1 bard-cooked egg
1'st thsp. olive oil
1 thsp. vilegar
1 thsp. salt
1 thsp. salt
1 stp. salt
1 stp. salt
1 stp. finely ground black pepper
1 thsp. finely grated onion
1 thsp. chopped parsley
2 thsp. heavy cream, wihpped
16 spears asparagus, cooked, drained and chilled

Rub the yolk of the egg through a sieve. Chop the

egg white. Gradually beat the oil, vinegar, salt, pepper, onion, parsley and egg white into the yolk. Fold into the cream and spoon over the asparagus.

SPANISH ASPARAGUS

pounds asparagus small onion, minced

'4 cup butter 1 small bay leaf Salt and fresbly ground black pepper to taste

3 then flour 2 cups chicken stock Pinch of nutmeg

2 egg yolks 1 tbsp. lemon juice

Cook the asparagus until tender. Drain. In a saucepan, heat three tablespoons of the butter, add the onion, bay leaf, salt and pepper and saute until the onion is tender but not brown, stirring often. Sit in the flow, rgadually add the stock and cook, stirring, until thickened. Add the nutnerg. Simmer five minutes and strain.

Beat the egg yolks until very light and add the lemon juice. Combine with a little of the hot sauce and add the egg mixture to the remaining sauce gradually, while stirring. Cook the mixture over beat, stirring constantly, until thickened. Add the remaining butter.

To serve, place the asparagus on toast and pour the sauce over the top.

BAKED ASPARAGINE WITH CHEPPER.

BAKED ASPARAGUS WITH CHEESE

Serves six 36 asparagus spears, cooked

Butter Lemon Juice I pound sliced Gruyere, Swiss or Fontina cheese Grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to hot — 400-degrees. In a buttered baking dish, arrange a layer of asparagus, dot it with butter and sprinkle with lemon juice. Cover the asparagus with silices of cheese and sprinkle with a little of the grated Parmesan cheese. Alternate layers of asparagus and cheese, ending with a layer of siliced cheese sprinkled with Parmesan. Sprinkle with melted butter.

Bake until the cheese is melted and bubbling, 8 to 10 minutes. Serve hot.

10 minutes. Serve hot.

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