

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day

South of the Rio Grande and in Mexican-American communities throughout the United States, Sept. 16 — *Día de la Independencia* — is a joyous holiday celebrated with parades, speeches, fun and feasting.

The date marks Mexico's first attempt, in 1810, to free itself from Spanish rule. Even though the uprising was quashed and it was another 11 years before independence was won, the initial step toward freedom is celebrated for the greater part of the week.

This year, why not join in the spirit of the holiday with a mid-week fiesta for friends. Streamline the way to a dinner rich in south-of-the-border flavors with these new recipes from the Pace Picante Sauce Test Kitchens.

ENCHILADAS DE PUERCO Y FRIJOLLES

¾ pound lean ground pork or beef
2 cloves garlic, minced
1½ cups Pace Picante Sauce
1 can (8 ounces) tomatoes, drained and chopped

1 can (16 ounces) black beans or pinto beans, rinsed and drained
1 can (8 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
2 teaspoons ground cumin
1 teaspoon chili powder
¼ cup thinly sliced green onions with tops
12 flour tortillas (6 to 7-inch)
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese
Optional toppings: Sour cream, chopped cilantro

Brown pork with garlic in a 10-inch skillet; drain. Add ½ cup of the picante sauce, tomatoes, beans, corn and seasonings; mix well. Cook uncovered, stirring frequently, 5 minutes or until most of the liquid has evaporated. Stir in green onions.

Spoon about ¼ cup pork mixture down center of each tortilla; roll up. Place seam side down in a 12 by 9-inch baking dish. (At this point dish may be covered and refrigerated up to 24 hours. Bring to room

temperature before proceeding.) Spoon remaining picante sauce evenly over enchiladas. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until hot. Top with cheese; return to oven 3 minutes or until cheese is melted. Top as desired with additional picante sauce. Makes 6 servings.

PICANTE POLLO CON PIMIENTOS

6 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
2 teaspoons ground cumin
1 large onion, cut into ½-inch wedges
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 Tablespoon olive oil or vegetable oil
2 cans (about 14 ounces each) stewed tomatoes
¾ cup Pace Picante Sauce
½ cup of finely diced ham
½ teaspoon dry oregano, crushed
1 small red bell pepper, cut into thin strips
1 small green pepper, cut into

thin strips
½ cup sliced ripe olives
3 to 4 cups hot cooked rice as desired
2 Tablespoons chopped cilantro, (optional)

Rub 1 teaspoon of the cumin evenly onto both sides of chicken; set aside. In large skillet, cook onion and garlic in oil until onion is tender but not brown.

Add tomatoes, picante sauce, ham, oregano and remaining cumin; mix well. Bring to boil, stirring occasionally. Add chicken; spoon sauce over chicken.

Reduce heat, cover and simmer until chicken is cooked through, about 15 minutes. Remove chicken from skillet; keep warm. Add peppers and olives to skillet. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer 10 to 15 minutes or until peppers are tender and sauce is thickened. Arrange chicken over rice; spoon sauce over chicken and rice. Sprinkle with cilantro. If desired, and serve with additional picante sauce. Makes 6 servings.



Mexican holiday: Celebrate Mexican Independence Day Sept. 16 with great-tasting and surprisingly easy-to-prepare Enchiladas de Puerco y Frijoles.

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