

Venison's Rewards Are Many

By ELLY

You can't be choosy if you're the cook in a deer hunter's household.

Your hunter will, of course, go after the biggest buck he can get.

But the broader the rack, the less tender the years, so the less tender the culinary rewards. And even a young animal isn't all loin roasts and steaks.

As with beef, the tougher portions can become a gourmet's delight when diced, cubed, minced and given tenderizing treatment. To neglect the less desirable cuts would deprive the table of truly fine feasts of venison.

The term "venison" refers to the meat of the deer-family-deer, caribou, elk and moose.

VENISON LOAF

- 1 1/2 lb. venison, trimmed, and ground medium fine
- 3 or 4 pork sausages
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 2 slices stale white bread
- 2 slightly beaten eggs
- 1 10-ounce can tomato sauce or tomato soup
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 1/4 t. crushed oregano
- Pinch of garlic powder
- 1/4 t. salt
- Pepper to taste

Combine venison with meat of sausages and mix well. Sprinkle with lemon juice, cover and refrigerate for an hour or two. Soak bread slices in small amount of milk. Squeeze the milk from the bread and crumble. Combine the meat and the bread crumbs with other ingredients, reserving half the tomato sauce. Mix well. Pack in a loaf pan and bake in a 350-degree oven for an hour. Heat remaining sauce. Remove loaf to a platter, pour hot sauce over it and garnish with sliced ripe olives.

VENISON PIE

- 1 lb. venison, finely diced
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 2 T. salad oil
- 1/2 c. raisins
- 2 t. flour
- 2 t. butter
- Salt
- Pepper

Thyme or rosemary (optional)

1/2 c. butter
Double crust rich pastry
Mix lemon juice and oil and sprinkle the mixture over the meat. Let stand for two or three hours. Place the meat and the oil mixture in a saucpan. Add the raisins and enough water to cover. Cook gently until the meat is tender, stirring occasionally. Rub flour in two teaspoons butter until mealy and sprinkle over the meat, stirring until blended and thickened. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add other seasonings as desired. Line a glass pie pan with pastry, add the meat mixture, cover with top pastry but do not score. Pinch edges of pastry to seal. Bake in a 250-degree oven for an hour or until pastry is browned top and bottom. Pierce top crust to allow steam to escape. Let cool in pan and reheat when needed.

FRIED VENISON COLLOPS

Take two pounds lean meat from shank, neck or shoulder; trim and cut in one-inch cubes. Tenderize with commercial tenderizer according to given directions. Dip each piece in beaten egg yolk (two or three yolks), toss in a bag of fine dry bread crumbs and fry in hot fat until tender. Move to hot serving dish and keep in oven white sauce is being prepared.

WINE SAUCE:

- 2 c. beef stock
- 1 T. flour
- Squeeze of lemon or orange juice
- Grated lemon or orange rind
- Salt and pepper
- 1 t. sugar
- Cayenne
- Nutmeg
- 1/2 c. claret wine

Heat stock to a bubble. Brown flour in a tablespoon of hot fat until deep gold and bubbling. Stir in stock to blend and until slightly thickened. Add a squeeze of lemon or orange juice and a bit of grated rind, salt pepper, sugar, a few grains of cayenne and a scrape of nutmeg. Stir over very low heat for about five minutes. Stir in wine and pour over collops. Serve.



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