

Good Old-Fashioned Beef Stock

Yield

About 2 quarts

Time

10 minutes to prep, 5 to 6 hours to cook, and at least several hours to chill the stock so that it's easy to remove the fat

Equipment Mise en Place

For this recipe, you will need a flameproof large roasting pan, a heavy-bottomed 8-quart stockpot, a chinois, and a large heatproof mixing bowl.

Ingredients

- 5 pounds beef marrow bones
- 3 pounds oxtails or beef shanks
- 3 medium yellow onions, peeled and chopped
- 3 small carrots, peeled and coarsely chopped
- 2 large celery ribs, coarsely chopped
- 1 head garlic, cloves separated and crushed
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 cup dry red wine
- 6 fresh thyme sprigs or 2 teaspoons dried thyme
- Handful of fresh flat-leaf parsley sprigs
- 1 Turkish bay leaf
- 2 teaspoons black peppercorns
- 4 quarts spring or filtered water, plus additional if needed

Directions

- 1. Adjust an oven rack to the middle position and heat the oven to 425 degrees. Arrange the marrow bones and oxtails or shanks in a flameproof large roasting pan and roast until they are a rich mahogany color, about 40 minutes. Toss the onions, carrots, celery, garlic, and tomato paste in with the bones and continue to roast until the vegetables take color, turning occasionally, 20 to 30 minutes more.
- 2. Transfer the bones and vegetables to a heavy-bottomed 8-quart stockpot. Place the roasting pan over a burner set on high and deglaze the pan with the red wine, stirring with a wooden spoon to scrape up the browned bits. Pour the wine into the stockpot and add the thyme, parsley, bay, peppercorns, and water. Bring to a simmer over medium-high heat, and then reduce the heat to medium and simmer gently until the stock is rich in flavor, about 5 hours, adjusting the heat as needed and adding water in 1-cup increments if the bones begin to look bare.

- **3.** Strain the stock through a chinois into a large heatproof mixing bowl. You should have about 2 quarts. Give your dog a bone and discard the other bones and vegetables. Let the stock cool slightly, and then refrigerate until well chilled.
- **4.** Remove the congealed fat on the surface. The stock is now ready to use. It will keep for up to 1 week in the refrigerator, but we recommend freezing it if there are no immediate plans to deploy the stock in a recipe.