

Gnocchi Cacio e Pepe with Mushrooms and Sage  
Recipe by Donal Skehan  
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Extracted from "Home Kitchen," by Donal Skehan

Ingredients

1–3 tsp black peppercorns (to taste)  
120g (4oz) salted butter  
300g (10oz) mixed mushrooms, sliced or torn  
10 sage leaves  
Sea salt  
250g (9oz) fresh gnocchi  
100g (3½oz) Parmesan cheese (or vegetarian alternative), finely grated, plus extra to serve  
50g (2oz) Pecorino cheese (or vegetarian alternative), finely grated

Instructions

1. Toast the peppercorns in a large, hot, dry frying pan (skillet) over a medium heat until fragrant, then roughly crush in a pestle and mortar and set aside.
2. Add 50g (2oz) of the butter to the frying pan and return to the heat. Once the butter is melted, add the mushrooms and sage leaves and fry, without stirring, for a few minutes until golden, then turn and fry on the other side for a few minutes more. Keep frying until the mushrooms are all golden. Season well, then scoop out on to a plate.
3. Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Add the gnocchi and cook for 2–3 minutes until they float to the surface. Scoop out with a slotted spoon and save 200ml (generous ¾ cup) of the cooking liquid.
4. Add the rest of butter to the pan you cooked the mushrooms in; once it's melted, add the toasted ground peppercorns. Stir through the reserved pasta water and simmer for a minute or so until reduced by about half.
5. Add the drained gnocchi to the pan and toss to coat in the sauce. Simmer for a minute or two, then remove from the heat and stir through the mushrooms and the cheese.
6. Serve straight away in wide bowls, with a little more Parmesan scattered over the top.