

Skillet Pork Chops and Apples with Miso Caramel

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Yield: 2 to 3 servings

Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients

3 tablespoons light brown sugar

2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar

1½ tablespoons white miso

2 (1- to 1½-inch-thick) bone-in pork chops, patted very dry

Salt

1 teaspoon black pepper

1 tablespoon neutral oil (such as grapeseed or canola)

2 small or 1 large Granny Smith or other tart-crisp apples, cored then sliced ¼ inch thick

Preparation

1. In a liquid measuring cup or small bowl, combine 3 tablespoons water with the brown sugar, vinegar and miso; stir with a fork until smooth. Season the pork chops all over with salt, then the pepper. (Don't skimp on the pepper; it's an important element to balance the caramel.
2. Heat a large skillet over medium. Add the oil and the pork chops to the skillet. Cook, flipping every 2 minutes, until browned on the outside and the internal temperature in the thickest part is around 135 degrees, 10 to 15 minutes depending on thickness of pork chops. If your chops have a fat cap, using tongs, stack both chops on top of each other, then grab both chops together and hold upright to sear the fat caps until crisp, about 1 minute. Transfer to a plate to rest for 5 minutes. Pour off all but 1 tablespoon of the fat.
3. Add the apples to the skillet in a single layer and heat over medium. (Snack on any that don't fit.) Cook without touching until browned underneath, 2 to 4 minutes. If the pan is smoking at any point, reduce heat. Pour in the brown sugar mixture and cook, scraping up browned bits and stirring, until thick enough to coat the back of the spoon, 1 to 3 minutes. (Keep your eye on the sauce toward the end so it doesn't burn.
4. Turn off the heat, add the pork chops and their juices back to the skillet and turn to coat in the caramel. Serve the pork chops with a spoonful of the apples and caramel.