

Almost Hands-Free Risotto with Parmesan and Herbs

SERVES Serves 6 as a side dish

WHY THIS RECIPE WORKS

For a simplified risotto recipe, we swapped our saucepan for a thick, heavy-bottomed Dutch oven that trapped and distributed heat uniformly and ensured our risotto cooked evenly. We added most of the broth after the risotto absorbed the wine and simmered it, with only a few stirs during the process. And to make sure the bottom of our risotto didn't cook more quickly than the top, we stirred the pot for just a few minutes and turned off the heat. The rice turned perfectly al dente from the heat retained in the pot, giving us a foolproof risotto recipe.

INGREDIENTS

- 5** cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 ½** cups water
- 4** tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1** large onion, chopped fine (about 1 1/2 cups)
- table salt
- 1** medium garlic clove, minced or pressed through a garlic press (about 1 teaspoon)
- 2** cups Arborio rice

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

***** This recipe does not employ the traditional risotto method; the rice is mainly stirred for 3 minutes toward the end of cooking instead of constantly throughout. This more hands-off method does require precise timing, so we strongly recommend using a timer. The consistency of risotto is largely a matter of personal taste; if you prefer a looser texture, add extra broth in step 4.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1** Bring broth and water to boil in large saucepan over high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low to maintain gentle simmer.

- 1 cup dry white wine
- 2 ounces
grated Parmesan
cheese
(about 1 cup)
- 1 teaspoon juice from 1
lemon
- 2 tablespoons chopped
fresh parsley leaves
- 2 tablespoons chopped
fresh chives
- ground black pepper

2 Heat 2 tablespoons butter in large Dutch oven over medium heat. When butter has melted, add onion and $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt; cook, stirring frequently, until onion is softened but not browned, 4 to 7 minutes. Add garlic and stir until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add rice and cook, stirring frequently, until grains are translucent around edges, about 3 minutes.

3 Add wine and cook, stirring constantly, until fully absorbed, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir 5 cups hot broth mixture into rice; reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer until almost all liquid has been absorbed and rice is just al dente, 16 to 19 minutes, stirring twice during cooking.

4 Add $\frac{3}{4}$ cup hot broth mixture and stir gently and constantly until risotto becomes creamy, about 3 minutes. Stir in Parmesan. Remove pot from heat, cover, and let stand 5 minutes. Stir in remaining 2 tablespoons butter, lemon juice, parsley, and chives; season with salt and pepper to taste. If desired, add up to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup remaining broth mixture to loosen texture of risotto. Serve immediately.