

Cooking

Pork Chops in Lemon-Caper Sauce

By Sam Sifton

YIELD 4 servings

TIME 35 minutes

Here's my favorite recipe in Toni Tipton-Martin's excellent and invaluable "Jubilee: Recipes From Two Centuries of African-American Cooking" (2019). It's a remix of one that the chef Nathaniel Burton collected into his 1978 opus, "Creole Feast: Fifteen Master Chefs of New Orleans Reveal Their Secrets," and one that Tipton-Martin glossed-up with lemon zest, juice and extra butter, a technique she learned from the restaurateur B. Smith's 2009 collection of recipes, "B. Smith Cooks Southern-Style." It's a dish of smothered pork chops, essentially, made into something glorious and elegant. "The food history of blacks in America has been a story of the food of survival," she told me in an interview. "We need to start celebrating the food they made at work."

INGREDIENTS

4 bone-in pork chops (about 8 ounces each)

Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper, to taste

½ teaspoon dried thyme leaves

2 tablespoons olive oil

4 tablespoons unsalted butter

1 very small shallot, minced (about 1 tablespoon)

2 garlic cloves, minced (about 1 teaspoon)

2 teaspoons all-purpose flour

1 cup dry white wine

1 ½ cups chicken stock, homemade or low-sodium, if store-bought

2 tablespoons drained capers

2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley, plus more for garnish

PREPARATION

Step 1

Dry the chops with paper towels, and season aggressively with salt, pepper and the thyme. Swirl the olive oil into a large skillet, and heat over medium until the oil begins to shimmer. Add chops, and cook until well browned on each side and cooked through, about 5 minutes per side. Transfer chops to a plate, and cover to keep warm.

Step 2

Drain the fat from the skillet, then melt 2 tablespoons of butter in it over medium heat until sizzling. Add the shallot and garlic, and sauté until the aromatics soften, reducing the heat if necessary, about 1 minute. Sprinkle in the flour, and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes. Whisk in the wine and chicken stock, raise heat to high and bring the liquid to a boil, scraping up the browned bits on the bottom of the pan. Reduce heat to medium-high and cook, uncovered, until the liquid is reduced by half, 7 to 10 minutes.

Step 3

Stir in the capers, parsley, lemon zest and juice and hot sauce to taste (if you're using it), and simmer for 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter until it's melted and the sauce looks smooth. Nestle the pork chops into the sauce,

**1 teaspoon freshly grated
lemon zest, plus 2
tablespoons juice
Hot sauce (optional)**

and allow them to warm up for a couple of minutes, then serve, pouring sauce over each pork chop to taste. Garnish with more fresh parsley.

PRIVATE NOTES

Leave a Private Note on this recipe and see it here.

Adapted from “Jubilee: Recipes From Two Centuries of African-American Cooking,” by Toni Tipton-Martin