



Fabulous Feta Tzatziki

By Dylan Sabuco

Prep Time 5 / Cook Time / Serves 4 - 6

Fun-Da-Mentals Kitchen Skills

measure: to calculate the specific amount of an ingredient required using a measuring tool (like measuring cups or spoons).

whisk: to beat or stir ingredients vigorously with a fork or whisk to mix, blend, or incorporate air.

Equipment

- Medium mixing bowl
- Liquid measuring cup
- Fork (optional)
- Measuring spoons
- Whisk

Ingredients

Fabulous Feta Tzatziki

- 3/4 C plain Greek yogurt **** (for DAIRY ALLERGY sub soy or coconut milk-based plain Greek yogurt)****
- 1/3 C feta cheese **** (for DAIRY ALLERGY sub 1/4 C nutritional yeast)****
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 pinch ground black pepper
- 1 T water
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 1 handful fresh mint, optional

Food Allergen Substitutions

Fabulous Feta Tzatziki

Dairy: Substitute soy or coconut milk-based plain Greek yogurt. For 1/3 C feta cheese, substitute 1/4 C nutritional yeast.

Instructions

Fabulous Feta Tzatziki

crumble + tear

In a medium mixing bowl, crumble **1/3 cup of feta cheese** as finely as possible with a fork or your fingers. Also, tear **1 handful of fresh mint** (optional) and toss that into the same bowl.

measure + whisk

Measure **3/4 cup plain Greek yogurt**, **1 pinch of salt**, and **1 pinch of black pepper**, **1 tablespoon water**, and **1 teaspoon Italian seasoning** into the mixing bowl with the feta and mint. Whisk all the ingredients until a light and tangy sauce is formed. Drizzle this sauce over your Great Greek Tasty Tofu Gyros (see recipe)!

Featured Ingredient: Yogurt!

Hi! I'm Yogurt!

"I'm a creamy and tangy food, and I'm very versatile! I work with both savory and sweet dishes. I also have less fat and more protein than sour cream, but you can often cook with me in the same way!"

History & Etymology

Yogurt's origin is undetermined. The earliest yogurts may have been spontaneously fermented by bacteria on plants or milk-producing animals. Historians believe it may have emerged during the last Stone Age, sometime between 10,000 to 4,500 BCE, when the Neolithic people began domesticating animals. Ancient Grecians, Romans, and Persians ate a yogurt-like dairy product called "oxygala" (οξύγαλα). They would eat it with honey. These days people often eat plain yogurt with honey, especially Greek yogurt. Greek yogurt is strained, which eliminates the whey and other liquids, causing it to be thicker and have more tang than regular yogurt. It also has two times the amount of protein. It is called Greek-style yogurt if it is thickened by adding powdered milk or another dry thickener. People with lactose intolerance may have less trouble eating it.

In 1916, Isaac Carasso of Barcelona introduced packaged yogurt to Europe. He dubbed it Danone, his son Daniel's nickname.

Yogurt with added fruit jam was introduced in 1933 in Prague. Dannon, the North American subsidiary of Danone, produced a fruit-on-the-bottom yogurt in 1947.

The word "yogurt" is from the early 17th century and is derived from the Turkish "yoğurt" (pronounced "yohght").

How Is it Made?

Yogurt is a fermented dairy product made with milk. The bacteria used to ferment the milk is called the yogurt culture or starter. During fermentation, the lactose (the sugar in milk) is converted into lactic acid, which gives yogurt its tangy flavor and changes the milk protein, resulting in yogurt's texture.

In various parts of the world, yogurt may be made from cow's milk, the most common source, or the milk of camels, goats, sheep, water buffalo, and yaks.

Soy yogurt, a dairy-free alternative, is made from soy milk, which is not an animal product, as it is made from soybeans.

Milk is first heated to about 185 degrees F to kill undesirable bacteria and alter the milk proteins so that they set together rather than form curds. The milk is then cooled to about 113 degrees F. Next, the bacteria culture or starter is added, and the temperature is kept at 86 to 113 degrees F for 6 to 12 hours to allow fermentation.

If mold develops on the yogurt, toss it, as scraping off the top, visibly moldy layer does not entirely remove mold that has seeped into the rest of the yogurt.

How to Eat It

You can eat plain yogurt by itself or with some honey or fruit. You can also buy yogurt that has already been sweetened and with fruit or fruit jam added.

You can add plain yogurt to salad dressings, dips, sauces, and soups. It can add extra tang and richness to meat and poultry dishes in place of sour cream and brings tang and moisture to pancakes, cakes, and other baked goods. A fun way to eat fruit-flavored yogurt is in pies and frozen yogurt popsicles.

Nutrition

Yogurt is rich in protein, vitamins B12 and riboflavin (B2), and the minerals phosphorus and calcium. Some studies found that eating 80 grams per day of low-fat yogurt was connected with a lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes and aiding bone health and digestion.