

Coronation Chicken Recipe Delia Smith

coronation chicken recipe delia smith: The Ultimate Guide to Making the Classic Dish

If you're a fan of British culinary classics, you've likely heard of Coronation Chicken—a delightful blend of cooked chicken, creamy sauce, and aromatic spices that has become a staple at celebrations and gatherings. Among the many recipes available, Delia Smith's take on Coronation Chicken stands out for its simplicity, flavor, and timeless appeal. In this comprehensive guide, we'll explore the origins of Coronation Chicken, delve into Delia Smith's renowned recipe, and provide step-by-step instructions to help you recreate this iconic dish at home.

Understanding Coronation Chicken: A Brief History

Before diving into the recipe, it's helpful to appreciate the history and significance of Coronation Chicken.

The Origins of Coronation Chicken

- Created in 1953 for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation banquet. - Developed by the culinary team at the Ritz Hotel, London. - Initially called "Poulet Reine Elizabeth" before being renamed Coronation Chicken. - Designed to be served cold, making it ideal for coronation celebrations and outdoor picnics.

Why is Coronation Chicken Popular?

- Versatile and easy to prepare ahead of time. - Combines tender chicken with a flavorful, creamy sauce. - Can be served as a sandwich filling, salad topping, or standalone dish. - Holds nostalgic value and is a symbol of British tradition.

Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken Recipe: An In-Depth Look

Delia Smith's rendition of Coronation Chicken emphasizes simplicity, balanced flavors, and accessibility for home cooks. Her recipe is perfect for those seeking an authentic taste without complicated techniques.

Key Ingredients

- Cooked chicken (preferably poached or roasted) - Mayonnaise - Curry powder - Lemon juice - Mango chutney - Fresh herbs (like coriander or parsley) - Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Optional Additions

- Sultanas or raisins - Toasted almonds - Crushed pineapple - Hard-boiled eggs

Step-by-Step Instructions for Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken

Follow these steps to recreate Delia's classic Coronation Chicken:

1. Prepare the Chicken

- Use cooked chicken, either poached or roasted. - For poaching: place chicken breasts in simmering water with a pinch of salt, bay leaf, and peppercorns. Cook until tender (~15-20 minutes). - Once cooked, allow the chicken to cool and then dice or shred into bite-sized pieces.

2. Make the Curry-Flavored Sauce

- In a mixing bowl, combine: - 200g mayonnaise - 1-2 teaspoons curry powder (adjust to taste) - 1-2 tablespoons mango chutney - Juice of half a lemon - Salt and black pepper to taste - Mix thoroughly until smooth and well combined.

3. Incorporate the Chicken

- Add the cooked chicken to the sauce. - Gently fold to coat all pieces evenly.

4. Add Optional Ingredients

- For added sweetness and texture, fold in: - A handful of sultanas or raisins - Chopped fresh herbs - Toasted almonds or chopped cashews - Small chunks of pineapple

5. Chill and Serve

- Cover the bowl with cling film. - Chill in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours to allow flavors to meld. - Serve cold, either as a sandwich filling, on a bed of lettuce, or with side salads.

Variations and Serving Suggestions

While Delia Smith's recipe offers a classic approach, there are numerous ways to adapt Coronation Chicken to suit different tastes and occasions.

Classic Sandwiches

- Spread on soft bread or baguettes. - Add crisp lettuce and sliced cucumber for extra freshness. - Serve as part of a traditional British tea.

Salad Bowls

- Spoon over mixed greens or rocket. - Accompany with cherry tomatoes and thinly sliced red onions. - Drizzle with a light vinaigrette.

Party Platters

- Serve in a large bowl with crusty bread or crackers. - Garnish with fresh herbs and citrus slices.

Healthier Alternatives

- Use low-fat mayonnaise or Greek yogurt. - Incorporate more fresh herbs and vegetables. - Serve as a lettuce wrap instead of bread.

Tips for Making the Perfect Coronation Chicken

To ensure your dish turns out flavorful and authentic, consider these helpful tips:

1. **Choose Quality Chicken:** Fresh, cooked chicken provides the best flavor and texture.
2. **Adjust Curry Powder:** Start with a small amount and increase to taste; different brands have varying strengths.
3. **Balance Flavors:** The acidity from lemon juice and sweetness from chutney should complement each other.
4. **Chill Thoroughly:** Letting the dish rest enhances the taste and makes it more refreshing.
5. **Personalize:** Feel free to add your favorite ingredients like chopped apples, curry leaves, or a dash of hot sauce for extra kick.

Why Choose Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken Recipe?

Delia's version is celebrated for its simplicity and authentic flavor profile, making it approachable for cooks of all skill levels. Her recipe is a timeless classic, perfect for traditional celebrations or casual family meals. It balances rich, creamy textures with aromatic spices, creating a dish that's both comforting and festive.

Conclusion: Embrace the Tradition with Your Own Twist

Whether you're preparing for a royal-themed party, a summer picnic, or simply craving a nostalgic dish, Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken recipe offers a reliable and delicious option. Its straightforward method, combined with flexible ingredients, allows you to enjoy this historic British delicacy in your own home. Remember to personalize it with your favorite additions, and don't forget to serve it chilled for the best experience. Enjoy making and sharing this iconic dish, celebrating a piece of British culinary history with every bite!

Coronation Chicken Recipe Delia Smith: A Classic Dish Reimagined When it comes to timeless British culinary classics, Coronation Chicken stands out as a dish that combines elegance, history, and flavor in every bite. Crafted initially for the coronation luncheon of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953, this dish has since become a staple for picnics, buffets, and family gatherings. Among the numerous recipes available, Delia Smith's rendition of Coronation Chicken is celebrated for its simplicity, authenticity, and balanced flavors. In this comprehensive guide, we will delve deep into Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken recipe, exploring its origins, ingredients, preparation techniques, variations, and serving ideas to help you master this iconic dish.

Understanding the Origins of Coronation Chicken

The Historical Background

Coronation Chicken was created specifically for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953. The dish was devised by the talented chef Rosemary Hume and her colleague Constance Spry for the banquet held on that historic day. Its purpose was to showcase the best of British ingredients—poached chicken paired with a rich, flavorful sauce—while offering a dish that could be prepared in advance and served cold.

Why It Endures

What makes Coronation Chicken timeless is its versatility and adaptability. It combines cooked chicken with a tangy, mildly spicy sauce that balances creaminess with acidity.

Over the decades, it has evolved from a royal banquet item to a beloved everyday dish, often served at picnics, parties, and family dinners.

Delia Smith's Approach to Coronation Chicken

Philosophy Behind the Recipe

Delia Smith's version emphasizes simplicity, freshness, and authentic flavors. She advocates for high-quality ingredients and straightforward techniques that ensure the dish remains true to its roots. Her recipe is designed to be accessible for home cooks, with clear instructions that guarantee a delicious outcome without unnecessary fuss.

Key Features of Her Recipe

- Use of fresh, cooked chicken—preferably poached - A mayonnaise-based sauce seasoned with curry powder, fruit, and herbs - Incorporation of flavors that are balanced and not overpowering - The preparation can be made in advance, making it perfect for entertaining or meal prep

Ingredients Needed for Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken

Core Ingredients

- Chicken: About 1.5 to 2 pounds of cooked, skinless, boneless chicken breast or thighs - Mayonnaise: The creamy base; opt for good-quality mayonnaise - Curry Powder: Mild or medium, depending on preference - Fruit: Typically, dried apricots or mango chutney for sweetness; fresh green grapes or apple can also be included - Curry Paste or Additional Spices: Optional, for more depth - Lemon Juice: For acidity and freshness - Fresh Herbs: Such as chopped coriander or parsley - Salt and Pepper: To taste - Optional Extras: Sultanas, chopped nuts (like almonds or cashews), or a dash of brandy for added flavor

Additional Ingredients for Variations

- Yogurt or Sour Cream: To lighten the sauce - Chutneys or Relishes: For extra sweetness and complexity - Lettuce or Leafy Greens: For serving as a salad

Step-by-Step Preparation of Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken

1. Preparing the Chicken

- Poaching Method: 1. Place chicken breasts or thighs in a large saucepan. 2. Cover with cold water, add aromatics like a bay leaf, onion, and peppercorns. 3. Bring to a gentle simmer; cook for approximately 15-20 minutes until thoroughly cooked. 4. Remove from water, let cool, then dice or shred into bite-sized pieces. - Alternatively, use pre-cooked or roasted chicken for convenience.

2. Making the Sauce

- In a bowl, combine: - About 1 cup of mayonnaise - 1-2 teaspoons of curry powder (adjust to taste) - 2 tablespoons of fruit chutney or chopped dried apricots - Juice of half a lemon - Chopped fresh herbs (coriander or parsley) - Salt and pepper to season - Mix thoroughly until well blended. Taste and adjust the seasoning as needed.

3. Assembling the Dish

- Gently fold the cooked chicken into the sauce, ensuring each piece is coated evenly. - Add optional ingredients like sliced grapes, chopped nuts, or sultanas for texture and sweetness. - Cover and refrigerate for at least 1-2 hours to allow flavors to meld.

4. Serving Suggestions

- Serve chilled, either as a salad or in sandwiches. - Garnish with additional herbs or a sprinkle of curry powder. - Accompany with crusty bread, lettuce leaves, or crisp crackers.

Tips for Perfecting Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken

- Use high-quality mayonnaise: Since it forms the base, the flavor quality here makes a significant difference. - Adjust the curry powder: Start with a small amount and taste as you go; the goal is a subtle curry flavor, not overwhelming. - Balance sweetness and acidity: The chutney or dried fruits add sweetness, while lemon juice provides brightness. Find the right balance to suit your palate. - Fresh herbs add vibrancy: Don't skip herbs—they lift the dish and add freshness. - Make ahead: The dish benefits from resting; prepare it a few hours in advance to develop fuller flavors.

Variations on the Classic Coronation Chicken

While Delia Smith's recipe is a tried-and-true classic, there are numerous ways to customize and elevate the dish:

1. Lightened Version

- Replace some mayonnaise with Greek yogurt for a tangy, lower-fat option. - Incorporate chopped cucumber or celery for added crunch.

2. Spicier Twist

- Add a pinch of cayenne pepper or hot sauce. - Use a spicy curry powder or add a dash of garam masala.

3. Fruit and Nut Variations

- Mix in chopped apples, pineapple chunks, or dried cranberries. - Top with toasted almonds, cashews, or pistachios for crunch.

4. Vegetarian/Plant-Based Options

- Substitute cooked chickpeas or tempeh for chicken. - Use vegan mayonnaise and plant-based curry powders.

Serving Ideas and Presentation

1. As a Sandwich Filling

- Spread between slices of soft bread or toasted baguette. - Add fresh lettuce, cucumber slices, or tomato for extra freshness.

2. As a Salad

- Serve on a bed of mixed greens with a drizzle of vinaigrette. - Garnish with herbs and a wedge of lemon.

3. Party Platter

- Spoon into small bowls alongside crackers, breadsticks, and sliced vegetables. - Decorate with edible flowers or microgreens for an elegant touch.

4. Cold Buffet

- Prepare in advance and serve alongside other cold dishes like quiches, cheese boards, and fresh fruit.

Storage and Safety Tips

- Refrigeration: Keep Coronation Chicken covered in the fridge and consume within 2-3 days.
- Food Safety: Ensure chicken is cooked thoroughly and cooled rapidly before mixing.
- Serving: Serve cold or at room temperature; avoid reheating as mayonnaise-based sauces do not reheat well.

Final Thoughts: Why Delia Smith’s Coronation Chicken Is a Must-Try

Delia Smith’s Coronation Chicken recipe embodies the essence of British culinary heritage—simple, flavorful, and elegant. Its flexibility allows home cooks to adapt the dish to their preferences, making it suitable for both casual lunches and sophisticated parties. The balance of creamy mayonnaise, aromatic curry, sweet fruits, and fresh herbs creates a harmonious flavor profile that appeals to a wide audience. Whether you are preparing it for a special occasion or a casual picnic, mastering Delia Smith’s Coronation Chicken ensures you deliver a dish that’s both nostalgic and delicious. Its ease of preparation, combined with its impressive flavor, makes it a perennial favorite in the world of British cuisine. In summary, Delia Smith’s Coronation Chicken recipe is a celebration of traditional flavors crafted with simplicity and finesse. By following her straightforward techniques and utilizing quality ingredients, you can recreate this iconic dish and impress your friends and family with a taste of history and elegance.

Questions & Answers About coronation chicken recipe delia smith

N o	Question	Answer
1	What are the key ingredients in Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken recipe?	Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken typically includes cooked chicken, mayonnaise, mango chutney, curry powder, lemon juice, and optional additions like almonds or sultanas for extra flavor and texture.
2	How do I prepare the chicken for Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken?	You can use cooked, shredded chicken—poached or roasted—and ensure it's cooled before mixing with the sauce ingredients to keep the texture ideal.
3	Can I make Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken ahead of time?	Yes, it's best to prepare it a few hours in advance and refrigerate to allow the flavors to meld. However, avoid adding delicate ingredients like almonds until just before serving.

4	What variations can I try in Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken recipe?	You can customize it by adding chopped fresh herbs, replacing mango chutney with apricot jam, or including additional spices like turmeric or cumin for a different flavor profile.
5	Is Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken suitable for a picnic?	Absolutely, as it is served cold and can be stored in airtight containers, making it a popular choice for picnics and outdoor events.
6	How many servings does Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken recipe typically make?	The recipe generally yields about 4 to 6 servings, depending on portion sizes and whether it's served as a main or part of a buffet.
7	What are some tips for perfectly mixing Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken?	Use gentle folding to combine the chicken with the sauce, ensuring the chicken remains moist and the flavors are evenly distributed without breaking the meat apart.
8	Can I substitute the mayonnaise in Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken recipe?	Yes, you can use Greek yogurt or a light sour cream as healthier alternatives, but keep in mind it may slightly alter the flavor and texture.
9	What is the history behind Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken recipe?	Delia Smith's version popularized a classic dish created for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953, combining cooked chicken with a curried mayonnaise-based sauce, symbolizing celebration and British cuisine innovation.
10	Are there any dietary modifications I can make to Delia Smith's Coronation Chicken?	Yes, for a gluten-free version, ensure all ingredients like chutney are gluten-free, and consider using dairy-free mayonnaise if needed for dietary restrictions.

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