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Kale with Mushrooms, Farro, and Pistachios

Serves 4-6 as an entrée

Featuring kale, a primo leafy green, this dish takes on a deep savory character with the addition of earthy mushrooms, nutty-tasting farro, and crunchy pistachios. The dressing features a white balsamic vinaigrette, though you'll find this dish delicious with or without the dressing. This is one nutritionally dense entrée!

Ingredients:

- 1 oz. dried porcini mushrooms
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 8 oz. white button mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1 clove garlic crushed
- 1-1/2 cups farro
- 2 cups vegetable broth (or salted water)
- 1 teaspoon Kosher salt
- 1 bunch kale, washed, stemmed, torn in pieces (about 4 cups)
- 1/4 cup pistachios, for garnishing
- 1/4 cup pomegranate arils, for garnishing

White Balsamic Dressing: (makes about 1 cup)

- 1/4 cup white balsamic vinegar
- 1 shallot, finely minced
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon Kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
- 1/2 cup olive oil

Directions:

- 1. Rehydrate the dried porcini mushrooms by placing in 1-1/2 cups boiling water; let stand for 15 minutes until softened. Reserving the liquid (strain if necessary), remove the mushrooms and chop coarsely.
- 2. In a large sauté pan with lid, sauté the diced onion in olive oil for 3-4 minutes. Add the thinly sliced button mushrooms and the chopped porcini mushrooms; continue sautéing until the onions are translucent, and the mushrooms completely wilted. Add the crushed garlic and sauté an additional 30 seconds.
- 3. Using a 2:1 liquid-to-grain ratio, add 3 cups of liquid to the onion-mushroom mixture in the sauté pan (2 cups vegetable stock and liquid from the mushroom rehydration process). Bring the liquid to a boil, add the farro and salt.

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Stir, cover, and turn down the heat to a low simmer for 30 minutes, or until the farro kernels are cooked and tender. (Check at the 20-minute mark to see if additional liquid is needed.)

- 4. Meanwhile, prepare the kale by washing, stemming and tearing the leaves into smaller pieces.
- 5. Prepare the dressing by whisking together the vinegar, shallot, garlic, salt, pepper, and thyme leaves. Gradually drizzle in the olive oil while continuing to whisk. Or, place all ingredients in a salad shaker or jar, and shake vigorously.
- 6. Assemble the dish when the farro is tender by adding the kale to the farro, and stirring to combine. Cover for 5 minutes to allow the heat to partially wilt the kale.
- 7. Immediately before serving, toss the farro-kale mixture with half the dressing; serve the remainder of the dressing on the side. Garnish generously with pistachios and pomegranate arils.