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Roasted Butternut Squash & Quinoa Bowl with a Lemon-Tahini Dressing

Makes 4 bowls

We often crave healthy vegetables for dinner, and a bowl is a great variation to a basic salad. The roasted butternut squash, sautéed Swiss chard, quinoa, and warmed, spiced chickpeas make this extra filling. Dinner bowls need a bold dressing, and this lemon-tahini dressing passes the test!

Ingredients:

1/2 large butternut squash, about 4 cups of 3/4-inch cubes

1/2 large red onion, sliced in half moons

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 teaspoon Kosher salt

1/2 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper

1 cup quinoa

2 cups vegetable stock (or substitute water with 1/4 tsp salt)

1 bunch chard, de-stemmed, stems sliced and leaves cut into bite-sized pieces

2 tablespoons olive oil for the chard

1 can chickpeas, rinsed and drained

1 bunch cilantro leaves

Spiced Chickpeas:

1 teaspoon cumin

1/2 teaspoon chili powder

1/4 teaspoon turmeric

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

1/4 teaspoon pepper

Lemon-Tahini Dressing:

2 tablespoon fresh lemon juice (about 1 lemon)

1/2 cup olive oil

1/4 cup tahini

1 clove garlic, minced

3 tablespoons water (as needed to thin)

Kosher salt

Freshly ground pepper, to taste

Directions:

- 1. Preheat the oven to 400°F. Peel and cube the butternut squash into 3/4-inch pieces. Peel and slice the onion in half, then half in moons. Place the squash and onions on a rimmed half sheet pan; drizzle with the olive oil and toss to coat the pieces. Spread across the pan in a single layer. Sprinkle the salt and pepper on top. Roast for 25-35 minutes or until the cubes are tender to the tip of a sharp knife, and the edges begin to caramelize and turn brown.
- 2. While roasting the squash and onion, cook the quinoa. Using a 2:1 ratio of liquid to quinoa, bring the liquid to a boil, add the quinoa, cover, and reduce the heat to a low simmer. Check after 15 minutes to see if all the liquid has been absorbed and the quinoa is tender. Cool if serving cold, or keep covered if serving warm.
- 3. Meanwhile, prepare the spiced chickpeas. In a sauté pan, heat the chickpeas in 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Sprinkle with the spices, stir continuously, and cook until slightly browned, about 10 minutes.
- 4. After the chickpeas have browned, remove from the pan. In the same sauté pan, add 2 tablespoons of olive oil and sauté the chard stems for 3-5 minutes or until tender. Add the leaves and sauté until just wilted. Salt and pepper to taste.
- 5. Whisk the dressing ingredients together until combined well. Assemble the bowls and serve with a side of dressing, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and a garnish of cilantro leaves.