

SEPTEMBER 2014 CELLAR CLUB

CURRIED PUMPKIN AND COCONUT SOUP WITH CHILI LIME PEPITAS

PAIRED WITH 2009 CABERNET FRANC, YIELD: 4-10 OUNCE SERVINGS

INGREDIENTS:

1 PIE PUMPKIN (OR $2\frac{1}{2}$ CUPS CANNED PUMPKIN)

2 TABLESPOONS OLIVE OIL

1 CUP ONION, DICED

4 CLOVES GARLIC, MINCED

 $1\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 Tablespoons Curry Powder

2 CUPS COCONUT MILK

1/2 CUP DRY WHITE WINE

 $2\frac{1}{2}$ cups Stock or Broth, Chicken or Vegetable

1/4 CUP PEPITAS, TOASTED (WITH CHILI AND LIME, IF AVAILABLE)

SALT AND FRESHLY GROUND PEPPER

METHOD:

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- 2. Cut pumpkin in 1/2 and remove the seeds and place cut side down on a parchment lined baking pan. Pour 1/4 cup water on the parchment paper (reduces browning) and place the pan in the oven. Cook approximately 45 minutes or until tender (check by piercing with a knife) and cool 10-15 minutes.
- 3. Using a spoon, scoop the cooked flesh out of the pumpkin. Measure out 4 cups of squash and freeze any remaining squash for the next batch of delicious soup.
- 4. Heat the oil in a Dutch oven or large, heavy pot over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and cook while occasionally stirring until clear and slightly brown 10 minutes.
- 5. Add curry powder, stir to combine and cook for 2 minutes allowing the spices to toast and release their flavor.
- 6. Add the coconut milk and cook for 5 minutes.
- 7. Add the wine and cook until reduced slightly.
- 8. Add the stock or broth and stir to combine. Add the pumpkin puree and stir. Simmer for 15 minutes.
- 9. Puree the soup using a stick blender or counter-top blender until smooth.
- 10. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper.
- 11. Serve in a warm bowl with toasted pepitas.

Recipe by Chef Wendy Bennett of Wine Country Cooking Studio
WINEGOUNTRYCOOKINGSTUDIO.COM