

Sausage Rigatoni with Sun-dried Tomato Sauce

Swick

Serves 1 | Active Time: 45 minutes | Total Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Chef's Notes

You can use any pasta noodle for this dish but the rigatoni noodles stand up particularly well against this hearty and scrumptious meat sauce.

This sauce freezes well.

Preparing the Sauce

To start, first roughly chop the onion. Peel and finely mince the garlic. Over medium to medium-low heat, cook the onions in the olive oil for a few minutes. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant. Then add the tomato paste and cook another minute or two.

Next, add the crushed tomatoes, whole tomatoes and the sun-dried tomatoes. If the sun-dried tomatoes were packed in oil, be sure to drain them first. Add the pepper, salt, oregano, sugar and balsamic vinegar. Stir well.

Let the tomato sauce come to a gentle boil, stirring often. Cover, turn the heat to low and let simmer for an hour, stirring occasionally.

Step 1: Preparing the Sauce

- 1 large onion
- 1 large garlic clove
- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 - 24 oz can crushed tomatoes
- 1 - 28 oz can whole tomatoes (796 ml / 28 oz)
- 1 cup sun-dried tomatoes
- 1/2 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1 tbsp dried oregano
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar

Finishing the Sauce

Once the tomato sauce has cooked, place a few scoops at a time into a food mill. If your food mill has interchangeable plates, use the plate with medium or large holes.

Step 2: Finishing the Sauce

Making the Meat Sauce

To prepare the sausage meat, first remove it from its casing and break it up a bit. Finely dice the white onion and mince/crush the garlic.

Heat a heavy-bottomed pot over medium to medium-high heat. Add the oil and the ground sausage meat. Stir the meat to break it up. Pan fry the meat until it just starts to turn brown. Once done, strain the meat to remove any excess oil.

Using the same pot, add a bit more oil. Turn the heat down slightly and add the onions. Cook the onions for a minute or two before adding the garlic. Return the sausage meat to the pot and stir. Add the sun-dried tomato sauce (from Step 1) and mix everything together. Bring the sauce to a gentle boil and then turn the heat to low and cover. Let the sauce simmer for 15 to 30 minutes while you cook the pasta. Remember to stir the sauce occasionally, making sure to scrape the bottom of the pot to prevent sticking or scorching.

Step 3: Making the Meat Sauce

- 4 whole fennel sausages
- 4 whole spicy Italian sausages
- 1 large white onion
- 4 garlic cloves
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

Preparing the Rigatoni

Bring a large pot of salted water to a rapid boil. Add the rigatoni and stir to prevent them from sticking together. Cook the pasta until it is al dente, approximately 15 to 18 minutes (or according to the directions on the package).

Once the pasta is ready, drain and return to the pot. Drizzle the pasta with a bit of olive oil and top with salt and freshly cracked pepper. Mix gently before folding in the sauce. Serve immediately with freshly-grated Parmigiano-Reggiano and freshly chopped Italian parsley.

Step 4: Preparing the Rigatoni

- 500 g rigatoni pasta
- 4 tbsp Parmigiano-Reggiano
- 2 tbsp Italian parsley