



Italian Zucchini "Ribollita" Bread Soup

By Erin Fletter

Prep Time 40 / **Cook Time** 15 / **Serves** 4 - 6

Fun-Da-Mentals Kitchen Skills

grate: to reduce food, like a carrot, to very small shreds or pieces of the same size by rubbing it on a tool with an outside surface that has holes with cutting edges (a grater).

pinch: to squeeze with two fingers to break off small pieces of a fresh herb or to collect a tiny measurement of a dried herb or spice.

tear: to pull or rip apart a food, like basil leaves, into pieces instead of cutting with a knife; cutting breaks cell walls more, so herbs can discolor faster.

Equipment

- Skillet
- Blender (or food processor)
- Cutting board + kid-safe knife
- Can opener
- Measuring spoons
- Grater
- Liquid measuring cup
- Colander or strainer

Ingredients

Italian Zucchini "Ribollita" Bread Soup

- 1 fresh rosemary sprig
- 1/2 white or yellow onion

- 1 14-oz can plum or diced tomatoes
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1/4 C olive oil + more to taste
- 2 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp salt + more to taste
- 1 carrot
- 2 zucchini
- 2 1/2 C veggie broth
- 1 14-oz can white beans, drained
- 1 C fresh spinach leaves
- 2 slices sourdough or whole wheat bread **** (for GLUTEN ALLERGY sub gluten-free/nut-free bread)****
- grated Parmesan, asiago, or mozzarella cheese **** (for DAIRY ALLERGY sub dairy-free/nut-free shredded cheese, like Daiya)****

Food Allergen Substitutions

Italian Zucchini "Ribollita" Bread Soup

Gluten/Wheat: Use gluten-free/nut-free bread.

Dairy: Substitute dairy-free/nut-free shredded cheese, like Daiya brand.

Instructions

Italian Zucchini "Ribollita" Bread Soup

pinch + chop + blend

Pinch off the leaves of **1 rosemary sprig**, then pinch leaves into teeny tiny bits. Chop **1/2 onion** into rustic pieces. Next, add the rosemary bits and chopped onion to a blender with **1 can of tomatoes, 2 garlic cloves, 2 tablespoons olive oil, 2 teaspoons sugar**, and **1 teaspoon salt** and blend until smooth!

grate + sauté

Grate **1 carrot** or chop it into very tiny bits. Add **2 tablespoons of olive oil** to a skillet and sauté the carrots for about 3 minutes. Add the tomato sauce and bring to a boil. Let simmer for 5 to 10 minutes.

chop + tear + simmer

Chop or grate **1 zucchini**. Add to the tomato sauce along with **2 1/2 cups veggie broth** and **1 can of white beans**. Tear **1 cup of spinach leaves** into small bits. Then tear **2 slices of bread** into rustic 1" pieces. Next, add torn spinach and bread to the skillet and stir until spinach is wilted. Taste and add more salt if needed. Ladle into bowls and top with Rustic Rosemary Olive Oil Croutons (see recipe), grated Parmesan cheese, and extra olive oil!

Featured Ingredient: Rosemary!

Hi! I'm Rosemary!

"I'm a fragrant herb with needle-like leaves. I can have blue, pink, purple, or white flowers in the spring and I'm very pretty in gardens. I'm also easy to grow, and garden pests don't care for me too much. My leaves add wonderful flavor to your recipes! You can use them dried or fresh, in breads, roast vegetables or meats, soups, and more, and I taste great in drinks like lemonade. Once you've met me, you'll definitely recognize me from then on!"

History

Rosemary is an herb commonly used to flavor foods.

The Romans brought rosemary to England in the eighth century. This herb originally came from the Mediterranean region—the sea cliffs of Italy, France, Greece, and Spain. Ancient Greeks and Romans used rosemary for medicine and cooking!

The ancient Greeks believed that rosemary was a magical plant that could improve their memory!

Rosemary was a token of love and loyalty. During the English Tudor era, rosemary represented fidelity, and brides would traditionally give sprigs of it to the bridegroom. In some places, rosemary sprigs are still used in the wedding ceremony or reception.

In the 16th century, rosemary was often burned in hospitals as a disinfectant to kill germs.

Anatomy & Etymology

Rosemary is part of the mint family, which includes basil, lavender, oregano, and many other herbs.

Rosemary looks like a tree you've probably seen before! What does it look like? Smell like? Feel like? An evergreen? Rosemary IS an evergreen shrub!

A rosemary plant can easily grow to five feet tall!

Rosemary leaves are the edible part of the plant!

The word "rosemary" came from the Latin word "ros marinus," meaning "mist or dew of the sea."

How to Pick, Buy, & Eat

A rosemary plant will grow year after year once it's planted. It can grow in the wild, in the garden, or indoors!

Rosemary can be used fresh or dried. It adds a woody, herbal flavor to foods.

Rosemary is best when cooked a little before eating it, while other herbs are better when fresh. You can add rosemary to eggs, salad dressings, cakes, drinks, soups, stews, muffins, and other baked goods.

Nutrition

In ancient times, people used rosemary as an herbal medicine for stomach aches, toothaches, headaches, and even to prevent balding!

Rosemary was also sometimes known as the "herb of memory." The leaves were supposed to quicken the mind and prevent forgetfulness. Students would wear sprigs of rosemary in their hair while taking exams!

Recent studies find that rosemary may offer a slight improvement in memory.

Rosemary does not have a ton of vitamins and minerals compared to vegetables, meat, and fruit, BUT it adds so much flavor and aroma to dishes that it's worth adding.