



Beautiful Borscht

Serves 8 - 10

Ingredients

- 3 lbs. flanken** short ribs cut about ¼ inch wide, fat trimmed***
- 1 bunch large beets - halved and then sliced (3 -4 cups after slicing)
- 1 small cabbage (about 1 ½ lbs) - cut into 3-inch by 1-inch chunks
- Juice from 3 1/2 - 4 large lemons (plus more juice if needed)
- 3 Tbsp brown sugar (I changed from the white sugar originally called for and I actually added an additional 2 Tbsp for my palate)
- 5 cloves of minced garlic
- 2 ½ Tbsp. salt (add more if you wish)
- 3 quarts of water

**Flanken short ribs are very different from traditional English short ribs most of you have seen; they are cut across the bones rather than parallel to the bones. Just ask the butcher for Flanken style short ribs if you aren't sure.

***Don't get too neurotic about removing all the fat from the soup ribs before you start cooking because you can remove a layer of fat after the final dish is prepared and refrigerated overnight.

Instructions

Put meat and short ribs along with salt and water into a large soup pot. Bring to a boil, skim off foam and then cover and lower to simmer. Cook for 1 ½ hours. Add sliced beets and cabbage and bring back to a boil, lower heat and cover - cook for another hour, stirring every 20 minutes or so. When you first add the beets and cabbage it looks so colorful and beautiful - don't get too excited because the whole soup cooks down and turns ruby red and the cabbage pretty much melts away.

Remove the lid and add the lemon juice, sugar and garlic and put the lid back on. Continue simmering for a half hour. Taste for salt, lemon and sweetness and add more if needed. I take my [tongs](#) and remove the flanken - tearing the meat into bite sized pieces and omitting the small bones.

I made this on a Tuesday night and by Wednesday there was a layer of fat that had solidified on top. I easily removed this fat layer prior to serving. In true Ukrainian fashion, I ate mine with thick slices of boiled potatoes and a hard boiled egg! This kind of simple, nurturing peasant food really speak to me.

This is a great winter dish and makes enough for a few meals with leftovers to freeze. It is perfect when the temperature dips and you need something to warm the cockles of your heart.

End note: apologies to everyone who lives in my condo building for the smells that emanated from my apartment. I know cooked cabbage and beets isn't the sweetest smell - but it sure tastes good!