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## SHERRY-BRAISED PIG'S CHEEKS WITH PRUNES

Prep 35' – Cooking 2h 20' – Serves 4 – Takes a little time

800g pig's cheeks  
2 tbsp flour  
salt and pepper  
1 onion  
4 tbsp olive oil  
2 garlic cloves  
½ tsp ground cumin  
½ tsp smoked paprika  
200ml medium dry sherry  
500ml beef stock  
1 tsp Worcester sauce  
1 bay leaf  
1 branch of thyme  
200g pitted prunes  
1 tbsp cornflour

1. Trim the excess fat off the pig's cheeks, discard and cut the cheeks in half. Put two tablespoons of flour onto a plate and season generously with salt and pepper. Toss the pig's cheeks in the seasoned flour.
2. Peel and finely chop the onion.
3. Heat one tablespoon of olive oil in a heavy-based saucepan and fry the onion for 5 minutes until soft and starting to brown. Take out of the pan and set aside.
4. Add the remaining 3 tablespoons of olive oil to the saucepan and brown the pig's cheeks all over. You may need to do this in batches.
5. Put the meat back into the saucepan and add the onion. Peel and crush the garlic cloves and add to the meat, together with the cumin and smoked paprika. Fry for another minute, then add the sherry. Scrape the bottom of the saucepan for extra flavour and stir.
6. Add the beef stock, Worcester sauce, bay leaf and thyme and bring to a simmer. Cover and cook for one and a half hours.
7. After one and a half hours, add the prunes. Put the lid back on and cook for another 30 minutes, removing the lid for the final 15 minutes so the sauce can thicken.
8. Put the cornflour into a small bowl, add a few spoonfuls of the sauce and mix to a smooth paste. Add to the saucepan, season with salt and pepper and cook for another minute.