Quinoa & Currant Stuffed Acorn Squash, Pumpkin Seeds

Portion Size: 1 each (half acorn squash) Yield: 8

| Ingredients: | | Quinoa Currant Stuffing Ingredients: | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|---|---------|--|--|
| Pepitas (Pumpkin Seeds), Hulled | 3 TBSP | Canola Oil | 2 TBSP | | |
| Red Wine Vinegar | 3 ½ TBSP | Red Onion, Diced | ½ cup | | |
| Granulated Sugar | 2 TBSP | Quinoa, Dry, Rinsed | 2 cups | | |
| Kosher Salt | 1/8 tsp | Curry Powder | 2 tsp | | |
| Crushed Red Pepper Flakes | 1/8 tsp | Cinnamon, Ground | 1 tsp | | |
| Acorn Squash, Whole, Fresh | 4 each | Water | 1 qt | | |
| Apple Cider Vinegar | ¹⁄₄ CUP | Kosher Salt | 1 tsp | | |
| Extra Virgin Olive Oil | 1 TBSP | Currants, Dried | ½ cup | | |
| Maple Syrup, Pure | 2 ½ TBSP | Parsley, Fresh, Chopped (stems and all) | 1/3 cup | | |
| Kosher Salt | ½ tsp | | | | |
| Black Pepper, ground | 1/4 tsp | | | | |

Preparation:

- 1. Place pepitas (pumpkin seeds) on a sheet pan and toast in a 350°F oven for 5 minutes or until lightly golden brown.
- 2. In a pot, combine the red wine vinegar, sugar, salt, and red pepper flakes. Simmer until sugar has dissolved. Add still warm pepitas to mixture. You have just made a pepita agrodolce!
- 3. Trim ends of acorn squash and cut in half lengthwise. Scrape seeds from squash.
- 4. In a bowl, whisk together cider vinegar, olive oil, maple syrup, salt, and pepper. Place acorn squash on parchment lined sheet tray with flesh side facing up. Brush flesh side of squash with apple cider vinegar mixture. Save any excess for basting during cooking. Roast acorn squash in a 350°F oven for about 20 minutes, or until golden brown and tender (basting every 5 minutes).
- 5. Heat canola oil in a pot. Sweat onions until translucent. Stir in quinoa, curry powder, cinnamon, and cayenne. Continue cooking for ~1 minute, or until spices become fragrant. Add water and salt; bring up to a simmer. Cook quinoa until tender ~20 minutes. While warm, stir in currants and parsley.
- 6. Place 1 cup of hot quinoa mixture into each acorn squash half. Garnish each portion with 1 TBSP of the pepita agrodolce.

Nutrition Information Per Serving:

| Calories | Protein (g) | Carbs(g) | Fiber (g) | Sugar (g) | Total Fat (g) | Sat Fat (g) | Sodium (mg) |
|----------|----------------|----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 500 | 12 | 95 | 19 | 16 | 11 | 1.5 | 400 |







