

Maple-Bourbon Bacon

with Lapsang Souchong Tea

This bacon recipe combines the sweet and smoky flavors of maple syrup and bourbon with the rich, smoky notes of Lapsang Souchong tea. It's a decadent and flavorful bacon perfect for any occasion.

PREP TIME: 20 minutes

CURE TIME: 7 days

2 lbs pork belly
1/4 C kosher salt
2 T brown sugar
1 t curing salt (Prague Powder #1)
1/4 C maple syrup

COOK TIME: 1 hour

TOTAL TIME: 7 days 1 hour 20 minutes

2 T bourbon
1/2 t black pepper
1/2 t smoked paprika
1/4 C brewed Lapsang Souchong tea,
cooled

PREPARE CURE: In a small bowl, combine the kosher salt, brown sugar, curing salt, maple syrup, bourbon, black pepper, smoked paprika, and brewed Lapsang Souchong tea.

MARINATE THE PORK BELLY:

Place the pork belly in a shallow dish or a resealable plastic bag. Pour the cure mixture over the pork belly, ensuring it is well coated. Seal the bag or cover the dish and refrigerate for 5 days, turning daily to ensure even curing.

DRY THE PORK BELLY:

After curing, remove the pork belly from the marinade and pat it dry with paper towels. Place the pork belly on a wire rack set over a baking sheet and let it air dry in the refrigerator for another 24 hours. This helps develop the desired texture and allows the flavors to concentrate.

BAKE:

Preheat oven to 200°F. Place the venison belly on a wire rack over a baking sheet and bake for 1 hour, or until the internal temperature reaches 150°F.

COOL AND SLICE:

Let the bacon cool completely before slicing.

STORE FOR LATER:

Place the sliced bacon in a resealable plastic bag or an airtight container. Store in the refrigerator for up to a week or freeze for up to three months.