

Lamb Bacon

with Pu-erh Hazelberry Tea

This lamb bacon recipe combines the rich flavors of lamb belly with the sweet and nutty notes of Pu-erh Hazelberry tea. It's a unique and flavorful twist on traditional bacon.

PREP TIME: 20 minutes

CURE TIME: 7 days

COOK TIME: 1 hour

TOTAL TIME: 7 days 1 hour 20 minutes

2 lbs lamb belly
1/4 C kosher salt
2 T brown sugar
1 † curing salt (Prague Powder #1)
1/2 † black pepper
1/2 † garlic powder
1/2 † onion powder
1/4 C brewed Pu-erh Hazelberry tea, cooled

PREPARE CURE: In a small bowl, combine the kosher salt, brown sugar, curing salt, black pepper, garlic powder, and onion powder, and brewed Pu-erh Hazelberry tea. For added flavor, blanch some hazelnuts and remove their skins, give them a coarse chop and toss them into the marinade.

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.