

Hail to the Kale, Caesar

INGREDIENTS

(Makes 6-8 side servings or 4 main)

3 c red kale, finely chopped

3 c green kale, finely chopped

5 c romaine lettuce, chopped

2 T shallots, fine dice

2 T pumpkin seeds, roasted

2 T sunflower seeds

Shards of parm (the amount you desire)

Pear, optional

CROUTONS

4-6 thick slices of good crusty bread

3 T butter, room temp softened

1 T Bourbon

1 t Crushed garlic

Sea salt

DRESSING

2/3 c Buttermilk

1/2 c Greek yogurt

1 T chives

1 T parsley, chopped

1/2 heaping tsp garlic, crushed

1/2 t Mustard

2-3 T Parmesan cheese, grated

/2 t lemon zest

1 T lemon juice

1/2 full tsp salt

1/4 t pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Wash the kale and remove the ribs from the leaves. (These are way too hard to eat raw.) Then chop the kale leaves and lettuce in small pieces. I feel that this is an important step when using hearty kale. If the pieces are too large, they can be a bit rough and tough.
- 2. Small dice the shallots and shave the Parmesan cheese, setting it aside. Put all your greens and shallots in your bowl.
- 2. Meanwhile, combine all the above dressing ingredients, whisking until smooth.
- 3. Usually, I don't dress my salad until right before serving. However, due to the heartiness of the leaf, I consider this salad to be more like a slaw, which really demands time to let the dressing soak in. Lovingly pour it over the salad a 1/2 hour before serving, but hold off on adding the shards of parm until right before serving.
- 4. To make the croutons, in a bowl, mash together garlic, butter and bourbon.
- 5. Slather the mixture on both sides of the bread slices.
- 6. Sprinkle with sea salt and grill both sides until beautifully browned. I use a cast iron pan, which does the trick.