Vegan Mexican Style Stuffing *Relleno vegano estilo mexicano*

Ingredients

³/₄ lb (340 g) plant-based ground meat substitute

1 tbsp vegetable oil

1 leek; washed thoroughly, roots and green top removed

2 stalks celery; washed and tops trimmed

1 clove garlic; peeled and minced

1 tbsp dry thyme $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp cinnamon

1/4 tsp nutmeg; preferably freshly grated, or ground

½ cup chopped nuts (such as pecans, almonds or walnuts)

1/3 cup raisins (Sultanas, or Thompson)

1 apple (Golden delicious or Granny Smith); washed, peeled and chopped

1/4 cup red wine vinegar

Salt and pepper, to taste

Slice leek and celery thinly; reserve. In a wide, large pan, warm up oil over medium heat; add leek and celery and sauté until translucent. Add minced garlic to the pan. Continue stirring and cooking for one minute, then add plant-based ground meat substitute. Break into small pieces (photo below, left) and mix with the vegetables; continue cooking and stirring for another two to three minutes, then add thyme, cinnamon and nutmeg; stir to incorporate, then add raisins, nuts and chopped apples (photo below, centre). Cook for another five minutes, stirring occasionally; season with salt and pepper, and pour vinegar in the pan. Stir well, cooking for another five minutes, then adjust seasoning as needed. Serve hot as a main dish (photo below, right), or allow to cool down to room temperature to use as regular stuffing.





