NORTH AFRICAN SPICED LAMB MEATBALLS

Meatballs in red sauce are classic all over the world. The spice defines the cuisine. For these lamb meatballs, a sauce might begin with tomatoes or red peppers; season with coriander and cinnamon; finish with fresh mint; then serve over couscous.

by Corporate Chef Kurt Kwiatkowski
Featured Food: Ras El Hanout
Yield: Makes about 20 meatballs

Ingredients

| 1 lb. ground lamb | 1 T. ras el hanout | 3 clove garlic, minced | 3 green onions, thinly sliced | 3 T. chopped cilantro | 1 t. berbere* | ¼ c. panko breadcrumbs | 2 oz. heavy cream | 1 egg | 2 T. diced sun-dried tomatoes | 2 t. kosher salt | ½ t. black pepper |

Preparation

Preheat oven to 350°F.
Mix lamb with all ingredients by hand very well until the mixture becomes sticky.
Portion mixture into 1oz. balls and place them on a sheet tray lined with parchment paper.
Roast meatballs in the oven for about 15 minutes, or until internal temperature is 155°F.

*Berbere is an Ethiopian spice blend that includes fenugreek, ginger, garlic, and chili peppers as well as a few spices unique to the region. While not the same, Chef Kurt says you can substitute cayenne pepper and paprika in an amount that works with your preference for heat!