

Whole grain spaghetti with mozzarella stuffed meatballs

Yield: 10 servings

Ingredients:

20 Oz. Barilla® whole grain spaghetti

20 Oz. Ground beef (80/20)

8 Oz. Italian sausage, off the casing

5 Tbsp. Extra virgin olive oil

1 1/2 Cup onion, chopped

3 Garlic cloves, chopped

32 Oz. San Marzano tomatoes, crushed

4 Slices white bread, no crust, diced

1 Cup parmigiano cheese, grated, divided

14 Oz. Bocconcini mozzarella

1 Tbsp. Parsley, chopped

¼ Cup basil, sliced

Salt & black pepper to taste

Directions:

- 1. In a sauce pot, gently fry the onion with olive oil for five minutes. Add 1 clove of chopped garlic, keep sautéing and one minute later add crushed tomatoes.
- 2. Add one cup of water, a pinch of salt and pepper and bring to simmer.
- 3. While the sauce is simmering, soak bread in water.
- 4. In a bowl, combine meat, 1/2 cup of parmigiano cheese, parsley, 1 clove chopped garlic, and soaked bread [squeeze out excess water].
- 5. Mix and when all comes together shape 1-inch size meatballs around mozzarella balls. [Very important to not over-mix]
- 6. Add meatballs to tomato sauce, simmer until thoroughly cooked, about 15 minutes.
- 7. Meanwhile, bring a pot of water to a boil and cook pasta according to package directions.
- 8. Drain pasta and toss with meatball sauce.
- 9. Finish with sliced basil, remaining parmigiano cheese and a drizzle of olive oil before serving.