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Fondue For You

Try one of these great recipes for your next gals’ weekend (or guys’ weekend!)

Looking for a fun and easy meal idea for your next weekend getaway to the cabin? Fondue pairs perfectly with relaxing and bonding with family and friends. The unique experience brings people together, making it ideal for entertaining. From the funny-looking forks to the course dedicated entirely to melted cheese, food becomes a conversation starter when you add a fondue pot into the mix.

Fondue offers a truly special and interactive menu option that will encourage you to slow down and create memorable moments with guests at your next cabin get-together.

Plan your cabin fondue party with the following recipes and tips provided by Chef Shane Schaibly, corporate chef of Front Burner Brands, the restaurant management company for The Melting Pot, a fondue restaurant franchise with more than 135 locations in North America.

Traditional Swiss Fondue

3 1/2 cups (14 ounces) shredded Swiss cheese
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 cup white wine
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
2 teaspoons finely chopped garlic
1 ounce cherry-flavored liqueur (Kirschwasser is recommended)
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
Dash of grated nutmeg

1. Toss the cheese with the flour in a bowl.
2. Place a metal bowl over a saucepan filled with 2 inches of water. You may also use a conventional double boiler. Bring the water to a boil over high heat.
3. Reduce heat to medium and pour the wine into the bowl. Stir in the lemon juice and garlic using a fork. Cook for 30 seconds stirring constantly.
4. Add half of the cheese, and continue to stir until the cheese is melted. Add the remaining cheese, a small amount at a time, stirring constantly.
5. Pour the liqueur slowly around the edge of the bowl. Pull the cheese mixture away from the edge of the bowl and cook for about 1 minute or until the alcohol cooks off. Stir the liqueur into the cheese.
6. Stir the pepper in gently.
7. Pour mixture into a warm fondue pot and keep warm over low heat. Garnish with a dash of nutmeg.

Makes 4–6 servings.
Bourbon Bacon Cheddar Fondu

2 1/4 cups (11 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 cup beer (light beer is recommended)
4 teaspoons prepared horseradish
4 teaspoons dry mustard
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon bourbon
2 tablespoons chopped cooked bacon
2 teaspoons freshly ground pepper
4 teaspoons chopped scallions

1. Toss the cheese with the flour in a bowl.
2. Place a metal bowl over a saucepan filled with 2 inches of water. You may also use a conventional double boiler. Bring the water to a boil over high heat.
3. Reduce heat to medium and pour the beer into the bowl. Stir in the horseradish, mustard and Worcestershire sauce using a fork. Cook for 30 seconds, stirring constantly.
4. Add half the cheese and cook until the cheese is melted, stirring constantly. Add the remaining cheese, a small amount at a time, stirring constantly in a circular motion after each addition until the cheese is melted.
5. Pour the bourbon slowly around the edge of the bowl. Pull the cheese mixture away from the edge of the bowl and cook for about 30 seconds or until the alcohol cooks off. Stir the bourbon into the cheese.
6. Fold in the bacon and pepper.
7. Pour mixture into a warm fondue pot and keep warm over low heat. Garnish with scallions.

Makes 4–6 servings.

Helpful hints

CHEESE FONDUE
- Toss cheese with flour or cornstarch to aid in thickening and to improve viscosity. Fondu should not be lumpy and should be the consistency of warm honey.
- Add cheese gradually to get a finer, smoother consistency.
- If it is too thick, add more of the liquid you used for the base. If it is too thin, add more cheese.
- Use the right base. Light beer pairs well with cheddar cheese while white wine pairs well with Gruyère and Emmentaler (Swiss).
- Serve with bread like a French baguette; pretzels; Granny Smith apples; pears; vegetables like broccoli, carrots, and cauliflower; and gherkins for dipping.
- Wondering what to drink with it? Try more of the wine or beer you used as the base in the recipe!

CHOCOLATE FONDUE
- Great dippers include fresh fruit like strawberries and bananas, Rice Krispies Treats, marshmallows, pound cake and brownies.
- The strong, bitter flavor of dark chocolate fondue provides a unique contrast when paired with sweet dippers such as pineapple and marshmallows. If it comes out too bitter, stir in a little powdered sugar.
- Milk chocolate melts fairly evenly, and its milder taste makes it a great base for mixing with sweet liquors and other additives, such as peanut butter or marshmallow créme. Of course, milk chocolate is also fine with nothing added!
- White chocolate has the same consistency as milk chocolate, but has less intense flavor, so a fondue with it takes on more of the flavors of liqueurs, nuts or any other mix-ins.

Flaming Turtle Chocolate Fondu

12 ounces finely chopped milk chocolate
2 tablespoons heavy cream
1/4 cup caramel ice cream topping
1 tablespoon 151-proof rum
3 tablespoons chopped pecans

1. Combine chocolate and cream in the top of a double boiler set over simmering water. Heat until the chocolate is melted, stirring constantly, or combine the chocolate and cream in a microwave-safe bowl and microwave until melted, stirring every 30–45 seconds. Be careful not to let the chocolate burn.
2. Pour mixture into a warm fondue pot.
3. Pour the caramel into the center of the chocolate mixture. Do not stir.
4. Add the rum to the pot and ignite carefully, using a long wooden match or lighter. Allow the flame to burn out and stir mixture gently to combine.
5. Sprinkle in the pecans, and keep fondue warm over low heat.

Makes 4–6 servings.