

Nakladany Hermelin – Pickled Cheese

Nakladany Hermelin or Pickled cheese is popular pub snack that comes with beer. It's prepared from Hermelín cheese (literally means "ermine") a Czech version of Camembert cheese. As always there are many different recipes and ingredients. Let's try a basic homemade pickled cheese.

Ingredients

- big mason jar
- 6-8 pieces of Camembert like cheese
- 3-4 onions
- 8 cloves of garlic
- peppercorns
- allspice
- bayleaf
- hot peppers (goat horns peppers)
- 1 teaspoon of paprika or chilli
- salt
- oil (sunflower oil)

Directions

1. Slice each cheese in the middle. Slice onion.
2. Cover each cheese slice with paprika (or chilli), minced garlic and salt. Put the slices back together.
3. Put in jar some onion, bayleaf, few peppercorns and allspice, then 2-3 cheeses and hot pepper. Again onion and repeat layers until the jar is filled up.
4. Pour oil in the jar so every ingredient is submerged.

5. Close jar and put in fridge for 3-5 days.
 6. Pickled cheese is served with bread and cold beer. Nakladany hermelin can stay in your fridge for several weeks.
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Pork Roast with Dumplings and Sauerkraut

Pork roast with dumplings and sauerkraut is absolute classic of Czech food and is considered Czech national meal. The title “Vepřo knedlo zelo” says everything about main items on plate. However there can be few alterations, because one can prepare bread dumplings as well as potato dumplings. Other dilemma can arise when it comes to sauerkraut, because someone might prefer from red cabbage. In this recipe you’ll find potato dumplings since recipe for bread dumplings is already posted.

Ingredients

Pork roast

- 1 kg of pork shoulder roast
- salt, pepper, caraway
- 3–4 cloves of garlic
- 2 onions
- 2 spoons of lard

Potato dumplings

- 1 kg of potatoes
- salt
- 2 eggs

- 1 spoon of milk
- circa 400g of flour
- 3 spoons of farina

Sauerkraut

- 500 g of sauerkraut
- 1-2 onions
- 100g of bacon
- salt, caraway
- teaspoon of sugar
- 1 raw potato

Directions

Pork roast

1. Chop onion in baking pan.
2. Clean meat and put on onion. Then salt and pepper meat. Spread minced garlic and put caraway on meat.
3. Add lard and baste with glass of water.
4. Put in preheated oven 190°C (375°F) for about 2 hours. Baste if necessary.

Potato dumplings

1. Boil unpeeled potatoes and then let them to cool off.
2. Peel and grate potatoes and put in bowl and season with salt.
3. Whisk egg with spoon of milk, add in bowl and mix together with potatoes.
4. Put on rolling board and gradually thicken with flour and farina until dough is not sticky.
5. Divide dough in several parts and knead cylinder loaves.
6. Boil in salted water for 20 minutes.

Saurkraut

1. Take sauerkraut from brine, let drain and chop.
 2. Chop onion and stir-fry on oil or lard. Add cutted bacon.
 3. Add sauerkraut and after 10 minutes season with salt, sugar and caraway.
 4. At last thicken with grated potato.
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Best Beer Pubs in Prague

We Czechs don't like to drink beer that tastes like rot-gut. So it's only for greater good to recommend our visitors, where to find **best beer in Prague**. Other important thing is atmosphere in restaurant, because in friendly and hospitable places are high standards of bar and kitchen.

Interesting fact is that in Prague people prefer a **little colder beer** than usual. Temperature is about 3°C, while typical is 6°C. Also there's difference between Bohemia and Moravia in how to tap beer. Bohemians prefer beer tapped at once, while the other in three cycles, which makes thick head.

Best Pilsner in Prague

Malostranská beseda

Cosy restaurant right on Malostranské náměstí (Lesser Town Square) can be a nice refreshment checkpoint before hike to the Prague Castle through Nerudova Street. Local bartenders really understand Pilsner beer. Their service is perfect and when you drink two quick beers it's a taste of joy.

Konvikt

Pleasant modern restaurant and bar for youngsters. You can easily sit here till 3 am and meet various groups of people from teenagers to actors, musicians and beer experts. This place is hidden in mysterious streets not far from National Theatre and Bethlehem Square.



Lokál

Group of pubs with brilliant beer and food typical for serving with beer. But be aware on weekend it gets really like really crowded in here. Across Prague you can find four of these alehouses, but shortly there will be fifth. One can be found in Dlouhá Street, where are numerous pubs and clubs.

U Zlatého tygra

Right on the way from Old Town Square to Charles Bridge is another pub with good beer in Prague. The atmosphere in here breaths out old history of Old Town. Also it was meeting place of Czech elite and even US president Bill Clinton visited this place with Václav Havel. And the prices in here are very favourable.

Kořkovna

Kořkovna is also a group of restaurants with excellent beer. It's very similar to Lokál and gets overcrowded as well. Local kitchen offers meals from cheese selection to roasted duck.

Most popular with best beer is at Celnice on Náměstí republiky.

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Apple Strudel

Apple strudel is traditional Czech pastry that have its origin in Austrian cuisine. It's very popular dessert in Czech cuisine and across Central Europe thanks to history of Austro-Hungarian Empire. Apple strudel is quite easy to prepare thanks to the option of buying prepared pastry dough. However old-fashioned people still make their own dough.

Ingredients

- Phyllo or flaky pastry
- 4-6 apples
- cinnamon sugar
- egg
- powdered sugar
- raisins, walnuts (optional)

Directions

1. Roll out pastry in slim rectangle.
2. Grate apples and put them on dough. Add raisins or chopped walnuts if you want.
3. Sprinkle apples with cinnamon sugar.

4. Roll up dough into long cylinder and close both ends.
 5. At last brush strudel with whisked egg.
 6. Put in preheated oven 200°C (390°F) for about 20 minutes until strudel has nice golden color.
 7. Dust with powdered sugar. Apple strudel can be served with whipped cream.
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Svíčková na smetaně – Beef Sirloin with Cream Sauce

Czechs love heavy sauces with dumplings. Svíčková na smetaně (sirloin with cream sauce) is the most popular sauce of Czech cuisine. Tender meat with heavy sweet sauce is a challenge to every cook. To exaggerate, most Czech men judge their brides-to-be by their ability to make good sauce. But of course mother always does it the best way. And since the recipes pass from mother to daughter, there are as many different versions of this recipe as there are families. The cream sauce is not always served with beef, but also with pork and rabbit. Svíčková can be also considered as Christmas dish, since in some families it's served on First Christmas Feast (Christmas Day abroad).

Ingredients

- 1kg of beef sirloin
- 150g of bacon (not sliced)
- 150g of parsley
- 150g of celery root
- 300g of carrots

- 300g of onions
- 10 peppercorns
- 5 allspice berries
- 4 bay leaves
- hint of thyme
- 200ml of cream
- 2 spoons of mustard
- 80g of sugar
- lemon
- salt
- oil
- water or broth

Directions

1. Clean the meat and if you want interlard with part of bacon. Salt the meat.
2. Cut the rest of the bacon and with meat stir-fry on oil shortly. Then remove the meat.
3. Dice onion and root vegetable and fry on oil with bacon till it gets tawny.
4. Add peppercorn, allspice and bayleaf. Put sugar and let caramelize.
5. Add mustard and peeled sliced lemon.
6. Pour in water or broth. Put meat in sauce and stew for about 1,5 hour until the meat is tender.
7. Take out the meat from sauce. Remove peppercorns, allspice and bayleaves.
8. Blend vegetable in sauce with mixer and pour cream.
9. Season to taste with salt, sugar or vinegar.
10. Serve with bread dumplings. Garnish with lemon slice, cranberries and whipped cream.

Czech Republic the Beer Nation

When you say Czech Republic in the world, some people recall Czech hockey and sportsmen, Václav Havel or endless politics affairs. What will pop surely in their heads is undoubtedly **Czech beer**. Czechs are rightfully **nation of beer drinkers**. From 2008 Czechs are on the **first place in beer consumption**. Every Czech drinks unbelievable 160 litres of beer per year, that's 320 pints even counting small children.

History of beer

History of beer in Czech countries dates back to the end of 10th century to Břevnov monastery. Although archaeological research proved that beer was brewed in the times of Germanic tribes. The oldest record of **hop cultivation** is charter of Břetislav I. from 1034. Great milestone in beer brewing was foundation of **Pilsner Brewery** (Měšťanský pivovar v Plzni) in 1842. They used **bottom fermentation** and this method quickly stepped forward among rivals. It was so popular that this type of beer is called **pilsner** ever since. That was the start of **golden age** in Czech beer production. Large breweries started step forward and small breweries perished. In a few years Pilsner was available across whole Europe and a special train loaded with beer departed to Wien every morning.



Pilsner Brewery front gate

To be a genuine beer drinker, you should know at least basic facts what makes Czech beer so popular. **České pivo** is a protected geographical indication (PGI) by EU. It marks out thanks to the use of **high-quality ingredients** from specified regions, classic technology and procedure of production and of course the craft of **Czech master brewers**. Especially Žatec region provides the **world's best quality hop** so essential for brewing. Another essential ingredient is **barley for malt**, although some brewery may use wheat or other grain.

Most popular Czech beers are **lagers of pilsner style**. Pilsner Urquell is considered the best among Czechs, but Gambrinus is perhaps the most consumed. Another great brewery is Staropramen, which sets in Prague. In Moravia, Radegast is very popular for its bitter taste. There are also quality beers from **small breweries** available in pubs and **beer specials**. Such specials can be found in several joints, for example U Medvídků, where you can taste a 33° beer. A famous restaurant with own brew is U Fleků, where you can taste traditional dark beer with quite similar taste to Guinness. And of course there's Prague Beer Museum with 30 beers on tap from micro-breweries.



Last but not least beer is great source of **vitamin B** and since

beer in Czech Republic is literally **cheaper than water**, why not to come and taste for yourself.