

Roasted Turkey Breast with Molasses

SERVES 6 with leftovers



Brining the turkey breast guarantees moist, tender meat and roasting it with plenty of stuffing, herbs and a healthy dose of molasses assures great flavor. Preparing a turkey breast isn't just faster than preparing a whole turkey, it's also much easier to cook and carve.

RECIPE CREDIT:
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Approx. TIME:
brining
{4 hours to overnight}
prep time
{20 mins}
cooking
{2 hours}

NOTES

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large boned-out turkey breast, skin on
- ½ cup and 2 tbsps coarse salt
 - ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 ½ cups Classic Bread Stuffing (before it's baked)
- 1 tsp each finely minced fresh thyme, rosemary and sage, mixed together
 - 2 tbsp butter, softened
 - freshly ground pepper
 - ¼ cup molasses

Rub the turkey with about two tablespoons of coarse salt and rinse under cold water. Combine 1/2 cup of salt, brown sugar and a cup of water in a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook until the salt and sugar are totally dissolved. Pour this mixture into a container large enough to hold the turkey breast, but something it won't totally swim in (a spaghetti pot works well). Add about two quarts of cold water to the salt and sugar mixture and put the turkey inside the container. Add more water if necessary, enough to just cover the turkey. Cover and put in the refrigerator for at least four hours, up to overnight.

When you're ready to cook the turkey, preheat the oven to 425° F.

Drain the turkey, rinse with cold water and pat dry with paper towels. Cut a slit across one side of the turkey as if turning it into two long pieces, but don't cut all the way through. Open the turkey breast like a book and evenly distribute the stuffing. Fold it back together. Flip it and gently loosen the skin from the meat with your fingers and spread the herbs over the meat, under the skin. Tie the whole breast back together snugly with four or five pieces of kitchen twine. Spread the top with butter and sprinkle with a few generous pinches of salt and pepper.

Put the turkey in a big roasting pan, roast for 30 minutes then turn the oven down to 350° F. Roast for an hour. Remove the turkey from the oven and brush it with half the molasses. Bake for another ten minutes, remove it and brush it with the remaining molasses. Return it to the oven and bake for another five to 15 minutes, or until a thermometer registers 180° F. Move the turkey to a board or platter and let it rest for at least 15 minutes before slicing. Pour about half a cup of hot water into the roasting pan and scrape up all the browned bits - make sure to save all this juice for your gravy!

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