

Chicken Piccata with Artichokes and Olives

If you are still making this recipe from the Food & Wine story, no worries, it's still great. But I've made a few updates based on how I cook today. I now add a handful of chopped fresh tomatoes, use basil instead of parsley or a mix of the two, pulse Panko crumbs with a little Parm and a clove of garlic instead of using just fine dry bread crumbs. And I always add more capers. Unlike the second recipe, I don't dip the chicken in egg white before dredging in bread crumbs because I want a softer crumb and the sauce soaks into the chicken so beautifully this way. For the perfect side? Your mashed potatoes or cooked spaghetti warmed with cream and Parmesan.

Makes 2 to 4 servings

Prep: 20 to 25 minutes

Cook: 2 minutes per side, plus time to simmer the sauce, but that's less than 5 minutes

- 2 to 3 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
- 1 cup panko bread crumbs or plain dry bread crumbs
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and halved
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 16 to 20 pitted Kalamata olives, drained and chopped
- 1 jar (6.5 ounces) marinated artichoke hearts, drained and quartered
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh tomato
- 1 cup chicken broth

Juice of 2 lemons (about 1/4 cup)

1/4 cup drained capers

2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil or parsley

- 1. Place the bread crumbs, garlic, and Parmesan in the bowl of a food processor and pulse until fine, about 20 seconds. Add the salt and pepper. Turn into a shallow pie plate or 13- by 9-inch pan. Set aside.
- 2. Place each of the chicken breasts into separate gallon-size Ziploc bags. With a heavy rolling pin or meat mallet pound to 1/4-inch thickness. Place the chicken in the fridge while you prepare the skillets and the sauce ingredients.
- 3. Place the half of the butter and half of the oil in each of two large 12-inch skillets. Set aside the olives, artichoke hearts, tomato, broth, lemon juice, drained capers, and basil or parsley.
- 4. When ready to cook, remove the chicken from the fridge. Heat the skillets over medium-high heat. Remove the chicken from the Ziplocs and dredge in the bread crumb mixture on both sides. When the foam subsides in the skillet, add a chicken breast to each of the skillets and cook until golden, about 2 minutes per side. Transfer to a sheet pan or platter. If you are using the third chicken scaloppine, turn off one skillet, and with a slotted spoon gather the crumb mixture from the remaining skillet and sprinkle this over the chicken. Add a little more oil to the skillet and heat over medium-high and repeat with the last chicken breast.
- 5. Wipe out the last skillet you used, and add the olives, artichokes, and tomatoes. Cook until heated through, about 1 minute. Add the chicken broth, lemon juice, and capers, and let boil for 1 to 2 minutes, stirring, until it reduces just a bit. Spoon the sauce over the chicken, and sprinkle with the basil or parsley. Serve at once.