

Caesar Salad with Harrington's Streaky Bacon

Hail Caesar Salad. It takes more than just a great dressing to make a great Caesar. Classically famous, it's been a fashionable favourite of Presidents, Royals, movie stars and proper A-Grade celebs, the sort you've actually heard of. Harrington's Streaky Bacon is an essential ingredient bringing a crisp, crunchy bite to a superior salad.

Ingredients

- 3 tbsp plus 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 2 medium cloves garlic, minced (about 2 teaspoons)
- 3 cups Sour Dough bread, cut into 1cm cubes
- 150g Harrington's Streaky Bacon cut into Lardons
- 50g finely grated Parmesan cheese
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 egg yolk

- 1 tbsn juice from 1 lemon
- 2 to 6 anchovies (see note above)
- 2 Boiled eggs, each cut into 8 slices
- 100ml cup olive oil
- 2 heads romaine lettuce, inner leaves only, washed and carefully dried, large leaves torn into smaller pieces, smaller leaves left intact

Directions

- 1. Adjust oven rack to middle position and preheat oven to 180°C.
- 2. In small bowl, combine 3 tablespoons olive oil with minced garlic and whisk for 30 seconds. Transfer to a fine mesh strainer set over a large bowl and press with the back of a spoon to extract as much oil as possible, leaving garlic behind.
- 3. Reserve pressed garlic separately. Add bread cubes to garlic oil and toss to coat and season with salt a pepper. Bake until croutons are pale golden brown and crisp, 10 to 15 minutes. Remove from oven and toss with 2 tablespoons of Parmesan. Set aside.
- 4. Shallow fry the Lardon until they are golden brown and crispy. Set aside.
- 5. Make the dressing. Combine egg yolk, lemon juice, anchovies, pressed garlic, and 1/4 cup parmesan cheese in the bottom of a cup that just fits the head of an immersion blender, or in the bottom of the food processor. With blender or processor running, slowly drizzle in olive oil until a smooth emulsion forms.
- 6. Transfer mixture to a medium bowl. Whisking constantly, slowly drizzle in remaining 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil. Season to taste generously with salt and pepper.
- 7. To serve, toss lettuce with a few tablespoons of dressing, adding more if desired. Once coated, add half of remaining cheese and 3/4 of croutons and toss again. Transfer to salad bowl and sprinkle with remaining cheese lardons and croutons. Serve.