

## Smoked Paprika Shrimp with Poblano Polenta and Red Pepper-Agave Sauce

The perfect match of Spanish smoked paprika and agave nectar brings sweet smoky heat to this vibrantly flavored and colored dish.

Prep Time: 45 minutes

Cook Time: 1 hour

### Red Pepper-Agave Sauce:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion
- 3 tablespoons agave nectar or honey
- 1 1/2 pounds red bell peppers, roasted (see Test Kitchen Tip below)  
or 1 jar (12 to 13 ounces) roasted red peppers, drained
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste

### Poblano Polenta:

- 1 quart (4 cups) milk
- 1 teaspoon **McCormick® Gourmet Collection™ Sicilian Sea Salt**
- 1 cup polenta
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup shredded Manchego cheese
- 1 cup fresh or thawed frozen corn kernels
- 1/4 cup finely chopped roasted Poblano chile (see Test Kitchen Tip below)  
or 1 tablespoon chopped drained pickled jalapeno pepper

### Smoked Paprika Shrimp:

- 1 pound large shrimp (21 to 25 count), peeled and deveined
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 2 teaspoons **McCormick® Gourmet Collection™ Smoked Paprika**
- 1/2 teaspoon **McCormick® Gourmet Collection™ Sicilian Sea Salt**
- 1/2 teaspoon **McCormick® Gourmet Collection™ Coarse Grind Black Pepper**
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced

1. For the Red Pepper-Agave Sauce, heat oil in small skillet on medium heat. Add onion; cook and stir 2 minutes or until softened. Add agave nectar; cook and stir 1 minute or until onion starts to caramelize. Place roasted bell peppers, chicken broth, heavy cream, tomato paste and onion mixture in blender or food processor; cover. Puree until smooth. Spoon bell pepper mixture into medium saucepan. Bring to boil on medium heat. Cook 10 to 12 minutes or until sauce is slightly thickened. Keep warm.
2. For the Poblano Polenta, bring milk and sea salt to simmer in heavy 2-quart saucepan on medium heat. Whisking constantly, add polenta in thin stream. Stirring frequently, cook 10 minutes. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Stir in butter, corn, cheese and chile until well mixed. Keep warm.

3. For the Smoked Paprika Shrimp, toss shrimp with 1 tablespoon of the oil. Sprinkle with smoked paprika, sea salt and pepper. Heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil in large nonstick skillet on medium-high heat. Add shrimp; cook and stir 3 minutes or just until shrimp turn pink.
4. To serve, spoon Poblano Polenta onto each plate. Drizzle Red Pepper-Agave Sauce around polenta. Arrange Smoked Paprika Shrimp on sauce. Sprinkle with green onions.

Makes 8 appetizer-size servings or 4 main-dish servings.

**Test Kitchen Tips:**

- To roast the bell peppers and the Poblano chile on a gas stove-top, cook the peppers directly over a medium-high gas flame until blackened on all sides, turning with tongs. Transfer peppers and chile to a paper bag. Close bag. Let stand 15 minutes or until peppers are cool enough to handle. Peel off blackened skin. Remove tops, ribs and seeds.
- To roast the bell peppers and the Poblano chile under the broiler, preheat broiler. Halve and core the peppers. Remove the tops, ribs and seeds. Place the pepper halves on a baking sheet, cut-side down. Broil 5 to 7 minutes or until the skin has blistered and blackened over the entire surface. Transfer to a paper bag. Close bag. Let stand 15 minutes or until peppers are cool enough to handle. Peel off blackened skin.

**Nutritional Information Per One Appetizer Serving of the Smoked Paprika Shrimp with Red Pepper-Agave Sauce:** 191 Calories, Fat 11g, Protein 11g, Carbohydrates 12g, Cholesterol 105mg, Sodium 256mg, Fiber 2g

**Nutritional Information Per One Appetizer Serving of the Poblano Polenta:** 225 Calories, Fat 9g, Protein 9g, Carbohydrates 27g, Cholesterol 29mg, Sodium 386mg, Fiber 3g

## Smoky Margarita

Innovative bartenders are shaking up classic cocktails with modern twists. This margarita gets its sweetness from agave nectar, a natural sweetener, and a distinct smokiness from Spanish smoked paprika.

Prep Time: 5 minutes

3 tablespoons **McCormick® Gourmet Collection™ Sicilian Sea Salt**

1 tablespoon plus 1/4 teaspoon **McCormick® Gourmet Collection™**

**Smoked Paprika**, divided

1/2 cup fresh lime juice

6 tablespoons agave nectar

2 ounces tequila

1. Mix sea salt and 1 tablespoon of the smoked paprika on a small plate. Wet outside rims of margarita or other beverage glasses with lime wedge. Dip glasses into sea salt mixture to coat.
2. Fill cocktail shaker with 2 cups of ice. Add lime juice, agave nectar, tequila and remaining 1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika; shake until well mixed and chilled. Immediately pour into prepared glasses.

Makes 2 servings.