

Anne's Chicken Pot Pie

Anne Burrell, Food Network

BAH Note: Anne pulled this off in 30 minutes on tv. But we all know that tv time and real time are two different things. So to keep it real, and to keep me from regretting the decision to make pot pie, I made the dough and cooked the chicken with veg a day ahead. The next day I only had to debone the chicken, roast the squash, make the sauce, assemble and cook. Jeez, that still sounds like a lot. But it was 100% worth it.

I found the dough to be very soft, almost too soft to work with after sitting out for 20 minutes. After I had cut out the circles for my bowls, I used an offset spatula to lift the edge of the dough and rolled into up. I then unrolled it on top of the bowls, stretching it as needed to have it hang over the sides.

Crust:

- 1 stick of butter, chilled, cut into pea sized pieces
- 1 8 ounce container of cream cheese, block style, cut into pieces
- 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour, plus extra for kneading
- 1/8 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 to 2 tablespoons cold water

Filling:

- Extra virgin olive oil
- 1 large onion, cut into 1/2 inch dice
- 2 ribs of celery, cut into 1/2 inch dice
- 1 large or 2 small carrots, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch dice
- Kosher salt
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 3 pounds skinless chicken legs and thighs (I couldn't find skinless so I just removed the skin myself. It's messy but it can be done.)
- 4 cups chicken stock (I used boxed broth. It was fine but it probably would have been better with stock.)
- 2 cups butternut squash, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch dice
- 1 1/2 cups haricot verts (or regular string beans) cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 6 sage leaves, finely chopped
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 4 tablespoons all purpose flour
- 1 egg beaten with 2 tablespoons water

Combine the stick of butter, cream cheese, 1 1/2 cups flour, and 1/8 teaspoon salt in a food processor. Pulse to combine. Continue to pulse until the ingredients start to come together in a crumbly mixture. Add the egg yolk and 1 tablespoon of water. Pulse a few more times until the the dough starts to form a ball. If your dough looks wet, add a bit more flour. If it looks dry, add more water, a few drops at a time.

Once your dough has formed a ball, turn it out onto a floured surface and gently knead it a few times. Lightly dust the dough with flour and form it into a disk. Wrap the dough in plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to use. When ready to use the dough, let it sit at room temperature for 10 to 20 minutes to soften.

Coat the bottom of a dutch oven or stock pot with about 1 tablespoon olive oil and place over medium heat. Add the onions, celery, and carrots and sprinkle with a pinch of kosher salt. Cook the vegetables for 7 to 8 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for another 2 to 3 minutes. Add the chicken and chicken stock. If the liquid doesn't cover the chicken, add water until it does. Bring the liquid to a boil over high heat, then reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, coat the butternut squash with 1 tablespoon of olive oil and a pinch of salt. Place on a sheet pan and roast in a 425 degree oven for about 30 minutes. The squash will still be slightly firm and not quite browned. Remove from the oven and let cool.

After the chicken has cooked for 30 minutes, carefully remove the chicken and vegetables from the liquid and place in a bowl, reserving the liquid. When cool enough to handle, remove the chicken from the bones and stir into the vegetables. Add the roasted squash to the chicken and other vegetables. Stir to combine and taste for seasoning. Add salt if desired. Stir in the haricot verts or string beans, whichever you are using, and chopped sage.

Melt 4 tablespoons butter in a large saucepan over low heat. Add the 4 tablespoons flour and stir to combine with the melted butter. Cook, stirring frequently, until the mixture is the consistency of wet sand and is starting to pick up a little color, about 6 to 7 minutes. Gradually whisk in the reserved cooking liquid. Once the liquid is fully combined with the roux, bring to a boil then reduce the heat and simmer until you achieve a gravy like consistency, about 20 to 25 minutes. If the gravy becomes too thick, whisk in a little more chicken stock or water. Taste for seasoning and add salt to taste.

Heat the oven to 375 degrees.

Fill a 2 quart casserole dish or 4 individual bowls with the chicken and vegetables. Ladle the sauce over the mixture until the dish(es) are 3/4 full.

Lightly dust a clean work surface with flour and roll the dough into the shape of the casserole dish or large enough to cut circles to cover the individual bowls. The dough will need to hang over the sides of whichever dish you are using. Brush the outside edges of the dish with the egg wash to help glue the dough to the sides of your dish. Fold the edges of the dough under and press it onto the edges of the dish. Brush the top of the dough with egg wash and cut two or three small vents in the top of the dough for steam to escape.

Place on a foil or parchment lined baking sheet and bake for 30 to 35 minutes until the filling is hot and bubbly and the crust is golden brown.