

The Edible Garden

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Watermelon Gazpacho

By: Louisa Shafia, author of Lucid Food

Makes about 6 bruschetta

Ingredients

2 slices whole grain bread

6 tablespoons olive oil

6 cups coarsely chopped seeded watermelon

5 ripe tomatoes, cored and quartered

1 rounded tablespoon sweet smoked paprika

1 clove garlic, smashed

3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

¹/₄ cup fresh mild chile pepper, such as Anaheim, Poblano, jalapeño, or ancho, seeded and roughly chopped

Salt

1/4 sweet white or red onion, finely diced

1 cucumber, seeded and diced

Instructions

- 1. Heat a pan over medium-high heat. Add the olive oil, followed by the bread. Toast the bread until golden brown, about 3 minutes on each side. Season lightly with salt. Remove from the heat and cool to room temperature.
- 2. Blend 2 cups of the watermelon in a blender until liquid. Add the rest of the watermelon, the tomatoes, paprika, garlic, balsamic vinegar, chile pepper, and bread, and blend until smooth. Transfer the soup to a bowl and taste and season with salt.
- 3. Chill for an hour before serving. Garnish with a spoonful of the onion and cucumber dice.