



Ramadan Recipe

Za'atar roaster red potatoes



Ingredients

- 500 grams of baby red potatoes (halved)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Zest of one lemon
- 2 tablespoons za'atar (herb spice)
- 3/4 teaspoon fine sea salt

For Garnish/Serving

- 3-4 tablespoons tahini sauce
- 1/4 cup pomegranate pearls
- 3 tablespoons pistachios (roughly chopped)
- fresh parsley (chopped)

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C and line the baking sheet pan with parchment paper (or foil).
2. In a large bowl, places the red potatoes, olive oil, lemon zest, za'atar seasoning and salt. Toss well to coat.
3. Now, spread the tossed potatoes on a lined baking sheet pan in a single layer. Roasted for 30-35 minutes or until golden and fork tender (last 4-5 minutes of broiling gives nice crispy potatoes).

To serve:

1. Take it out of the oven and allow it to rest for few minutes (you can dish out the potatoes, sprinkle parsley and serve as is).
2. Transfer to a serving platter, drizzle tahini sauce, top with chopped pistachios and pomegranate pearls, sprinkle chopped fresh parsley and serve right away!

Tunisian coppersmiths bring fresh shine to Ramadan

AFP | Tunis

The eve of Ramadan is a frantic time for Tunisian coppersmith Chedli Maghraoui, who skilfully puts a new shine on families' favourite kitchenware before the Muslim holy month starts.

From couscous pots to beloved tea sets, the metalware gets a professional polish from the 69-year-old craftsman who labours away solo at his workshop in the old city of Tunis.

So great is the pre-Ramadan rush that he has to politely tell customers he is just unable to work any faster: "I can't do it -- I still have other orders and, as you can see, I'm working alone."

Maghraoui scrubs items and uses a method known as hot-dip tinning where he coats the copper with a thin layer of tin to stop metal oxidation -- a process that makes pots gleam like new.

As he reconditions one well-loved pewter piece, he fans an oven fire that heats a pot with the object inside, before brushing it and plunging it into a large bucket of water.

Maghraoui says he is proud to be among the few still practicing the time-honoured craft in the ancient North African city. "It's a tradition that has existed for centuries and it's still alive."

Tunisian women often receive copper or white copper gifts when they get married, or inherit the items from their mothers. Many bring their beloved heirlooms to Maghraoui to protect them a little longer.

"I get a special feeling when I use my shiny pot during Ramadan", said Sana Boukhris, 49, an accountant.



Tunisian coppersmith Chedli Maghraoui (L), 69, holds cooking pots being polished at his workshop in Tunis

“People prepare to have their kitchenware treated before Ramadan so it looks impeccable for the whole month, so the kitchen looks good and women enjoy their pots,”

ABDEJLIL AYARI

“The tradition reminds me of good times as a child, when my mother would prepare for the holy month. “There is blessing in these things I inherited from my mother.”

Cracked skin

Dalila Boubaker, a housewife, said she could only afford to get two pots polished up for Ramadan this year as

households across Tunisia struggle with inflation and high unemployment.

“Everything has become so expensive,” sighed Boubaker, with the cost for a polish job now ranging from 20 to 200 dinars (\$6-\$65) per item, depending on the item's size and shape.

Abdejilil Ayari, who has worked as a coppersmith in the medina for 48 of his 60 years, said the run-up to Ramadan was intense every year.

“People prepare to have their kitchenware treated before Ramadan so it looks impeccable for the whole month, so the kitchen looks good and women enjoy their pots,” he said.

Trade is also brisk for beautiful old pieces in the Souk En-Nahhas (copper market) where around 50 shops sell reconditioned coffee makers, teapots, incense burners and

small cups.

Demand is so high that “we're not taking orders anymore,” said Mabrouk Romdhane, who at the age of 82 owns three such stores in the market in the heart of the medina.

Ayari said he learnt the trade from his father and started before he was even a teenager, but he now worries that few young people want to follow in his footsteps.

Maghraoui, who bought his workshop 20 years ago from someone who had inherited it but didn't want it, agreed.

“Each death among my colleagues is a loss for this profession and a step towards its disappearance,” he said.

Maghraoui held out the palms of his hands, the skin cracked and blackened from his trade, and said: “This generation wants an easy job and doesn't like having this.”



A man views freshly-polished cookware at a coppersmith's workshop in Tunis



A coppersmith polishes a couscoussier at a workshop in the medina (old city) of Tunis

SUDOKU

		2	6					
	7				8			3
	9			1	6			
8		5		6				
7				3				1
				5		9		8
		3		4				7
	4		7					1
					9	2		

Yesterday's solution

2	9	5	3	1	7	4	8	6
3	4	8	5	6	9	7	2	1
7	6	1	4	8	2	9	5	3
9	3	2	8	4	5	1	6	7
8	1	6	7	9	3	5	4	2
4	5	7	1	2	6	8	3	9
1	7	4	2	3	8	6	9	5
6	8	3	9	5	1	2	7	4
5	2	9	6	7	4	3	1	8

How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14				15			
16				17				18			
19			20		21			22			
23			24		25			26			
27	28	29		30		31		32	33	34	
35				36		37		38			
39				40		41		42			
43				44	45	46		47			
48				49		50		51			
52				53		54		55			
56	57			58		59		60		61	62
63				64		65		66		67	
68				69		70		71			
72				73							

Across

1- Examine, search; 5- Bushy hairstyle; 9- Headland; 13- Andean country; 14- The Hunter; 15- Bread spread; 16- Wrinkle remover; 17- Tablets; 18- Word with French or English; 19- Off-campus local; 21- Culpa; 22- Matures; 23- Goes wrong; 25- Hunk; 27- Falls back; 31- Magazine VIP; 35- Oil of ...; 36- Diplomat's forte; 38- Put away; 39- Small island; 40- Clear the boards; 42- Peke squeak; 43- Author Dahl; 46- Pitfall; 47- Ship stabilizer; 48- Powerful; 50- Amicable; 52- DEA agent; 54- WWII battle site; 55- Smelting waste; 58- Boat propeller; 60- Nissan model; 64- Ethereal Prefix; 65- Chaplin persona; 67- Hardware fastener; 68- By and by; 69- Law of Moses; 70- Romaine de Tiroff, familiarly; 71- Firecracker sound; 72- Foreboding; 73- Consider;

Down

1- Roasting rod; 2- King mackerel; 3- Get one's ducks in ...; 4- Convent; 5- Onassis, to pals; 6- Thin layer; 7- Actor's parts; 8- Marked down; 9- Live together; 10- Sleep like ...; 11- French father; 12- Seemingly forever; 14- Run; 20- Vexation; 24- Maze word; 26- Commercial; 27- Lion sounds; 28- Marner's creator; 29- Golden Horde member; 30- Muffler; 32- Fiddled; 33- Bay window; 34- Answer; 37- Former Russian rulers; 41- Tomb inscription; 44- Craving; 45- Kind of fingerprint; 47- Entangled; 49- Cavern; 51- Building wing; 53- Billiards shot; 55- Swedish auto; 56- Actress Olin; 57- Elvis's middle name; 59- Steak order; 61- As to; 62- Trumpet accessory; 63- Up and ...; 66- Oh, brother!;

Yesterday's solution

C	A	P	N	L	A	P	P	U	S	E	R
A	S	I	A	I	S	S	U	E	N	A	P
M	I	T	T	A	S	S	N	S	T	R	E
E	S	A	U	B	A	T	A	R	G	E	T
				R	E	L	Y	G	U	R	U
G	R	A	V	E	I	N	A	C	T	I	V
B	E	L	L	E	S	T	A	R	H	O	A
A	N	E		B	U	S	T	Y		N	S
U	R	S	A	R	I	M	S	A	B	I	E
M	E	S	Q	U	I	T	E	A	T	R	A
				U	R	G	E	I	D	E	A
B	A	N	A	N	A	L	S	D	C	A	D
I	G	O	T	D	H	O	L	E	K	E	E
T	E	R	I	E	A	G	E	R	E	R	E
E	R	I	C	W	E	T	S	N	O	R	A