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### THE **tribune**

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# Ramadan Recipe that is Perfect For Sharing

BAHRAIN

Kashk Bademjan is a beautiful, mouthwatering warm starter prepared with eggplant. The creamy texture of eggplant against the crunchy walnut topping makes this Persian starter delightful to the palate. Smoky grilled or roasted eggplant skillfully combined with garlic, mint and kashk (Dried and fermented yoghurt) provides a well-balanced flavour profile. Caramelised onions add a pleasing sweetness to the dish. Prepare this irresistible starter for your family and watch them ask for more!

## **KASHK BADEMJAN**

#### Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil2 large eggplant peeled and thinly
- sliced vertically1 large yellow onion thinly sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons dried mint
- 1/4 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 tablespoon bloomed saffron water
- 1/4-1/2 cup of kashk depending on your preference (and more for serving)
- Garnish: chopped walnuts
  Salt and pepper to taste

#### Instructions:

- Peel off the skin of the eggplant, slice the eggplant vertically.
- In a pan, heat olive oil and sear the eggplant in batches. Sear on both sides until golden brown and a bit caramelised. Set aside on a plate.
- While eggplant is cooking, bloom the saffron by putting 1/4th tsp of saffron in a mortar and pestle. Grind into a powder and add in a cup with 1-2 ice cubes. Once dissolved, you get bloomed saffron.
- In another skillet, add a little olive oil and sauté the onions until soft and golden brown.
- Add the garlic and dried mint to the onions and mix until combined on low flame. Set aside about 2-3 tablespoons for topping! Empty out the mixture and set aside.
- In the same skillet, add the eggplant, the onion/garlic/mint mixture, salt, pepper, turmeric and mix well. Add 1/4th cup of water and cover. This will allow the eggplant to fully cook through and soften (Around 10 minutes).

**Eats & Treats** 

- Once the liquid has dissolved and eggplant is soft, mash the eggplant using a masher or fork. Keep the eggplant a bit chunky. When the dip is fully combined and mashed to your desired consistency, add in to the bloomed saffron, salt and pepper to taste and kashk. Mix well to combine on low heat for another 5-6 minutes.
- Serve Kashk Bademjan on a plate and top it with caramelized onion, sauteed dried mint, extra kashk, and chopped walnuts.



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