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"This fun-sized take on the game day appetizer offers everything you love about Buffalo wings, minus the bones, messy frying, and any risk of your drunk friends dripping sauce all over the place. Instead of wings, we simply take chicken thighs, simmer them directly in butter 'n hot sauce, shred, and mix with celery. The blue cheese comes in the accompanying crostini: baguette slices toasted and spread with butter and blue cheese."

Ingredients

1 1/2 pounds bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs 1 teaspoon salt 1/4 cup unsalted butter 1/4 cup Louisiana-style hot sauce 3 tablespoons water 1/3 cup finely chopped celery 1 pinch cayenne pepper, or to taste (optional) Blue Cheese Crostini: 1 baguette, cut into 1/4 inch slices 1/4 cup melted butter 1/2 cup blue cheese, or to taste 1/4 cup butter, at room temperature

Directions

- 1 Heat a dry saucepan over high heat. Place thighs skin-side down in the hot pan and cook until skin is browned, seasoning generously with salt, about 5 minutes. Turn thighs over once skin no longer sticks to the pan. Add butter, Louisiana hot sauce, and water. Toss thighs around to stir the sauce until butter is melted.
- Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer until meat can be easily pulled from the bone, about 1 1/2 hours. Remove from heat and break meat up into smaller pieces using tongs, stirring it into the sauce. Let mixture cool to room temperature, at least 20 minutes.
 Transfer meat to a mixing bowl, shredding it into smaller pieces. Discard bones, cartilage, and skin.
- Bring the sauce in the pan to a boil over medium-high heat. Let reduce until slightly thickened, about 2 minutes. Pour sauce into the bowl of chicken meat and mix thoroughly. Taste for seasoning; add salt, cayenne, and hot sauce as needed. Add celery and mix one last time
- Pack chicken mixture into a pint-sized jar or crock, and top with a spoonful of hot sauce if desired, and seal jar. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Remove from fridge 30 minutes before service to allow spread to warm up a bit.
- 6 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) in the meantime. Arrange baguette slices on a baking sheet. Brush tops generously with butter.
- 7 Bake in the preheated oven until edges start to turn golden brown, about 20 minutes.
- 8 Meanwhile, smear butter and blue cheese together in a small bowl until combined.
- 9 Remove toasted baguette slices and let cool Jightly, leaving the oven on. Spread blue cheese spread on top, then continue baking crostini until golden brown and crispy, 10 to 12 minutes. Serve with the Buffalo chicken spread.
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