

Tangy, zesty chimichurri slaw a perfect fit for outdoor entertaining



Chimichurri Feta Slaw

Photos Susie Iventosch

By Susie Iventosch

Chimichurri is a deliciously fresh and zesty sauce of Latin American origins made from fresh herbs, chilies, garlic, olive oil and vinegar. We also include cilantro and lime juice for an extra tangy finish. Really, I can't think of a thing that isn't better with a splash of chimichurri! It is often served with grilled steak, but it's fabulous on chicken, fish, or veggies and makes a delightful dipping sauce for bread. Plus it's super easy to make. One of our favorite ways to use it is blended with feta and tossed with chopped romaine, shredded green cabbage, fresh cilantro leaves, yellow cherry tomatoes, and avocado for a tasty slaw. It's fun to garnish the salad with an

avocado rose, and if you've never made one before, they are fun to do. I've included a link in the recipe directions for a tutorial video.

By the way, if you've ever wondered ... the word "slaw" is simply short for "coleslaw," which is a salad consisting of shredded cabbage often with other shredded veggies. The word coleslaw is derived from the Dutch words koolsla, with kool meaning cabbage and sla, meaning salad. So it truly is a cabbage salad!

This recipe is divided into three parts – Chimichurri, Chimichurri Feta Dressing, and Chimichurri Feta Slaw. You can make the chimichurri and the dressing a day or two ahead and refrigerate until you're ready to make the salad.

Chimichurri

(Makes 1/2 cup)

INGREDIENTS

2 jalapeños or Fresno chilies, stems, veins and seeds removed and coarsely chopped
 1/2 bunch cilantro leaves (or about 1.5 cups loosely packed)
 1/2 bunch Italian parsley leaves (or about 1.5 cups loosely packed)
 2 tablespoons fresh oregano leaves, or 1 teaspoon dried oregano
 2 cloves garlic
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon pepper
 1/4 cup olive oil
 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

DIRECTIONS

Put peppers, garlic, cilantro, parsley and oregano in the food processor and pulse until it reaches the texture you like. Some like it quite chunky and others like it puréed smooth. Either way, once it's chopped, transfer the veggies and herbs to a bowl and add the remaining ingredients. Use right away or store in an airtight container in the refrigerator until ready to use.



Chimichurri Feta Dressing – makes 1 cup

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup chimichurri
 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
 Place all ingredients in the bowl of your food processor (the same one you used to make the chimichurri), blend until smooth.

Salad Fixings

(Serves 4-6)

INGREDIENTS

1/2 head romaine lettuce, chopped
 1/2 head green cabbage, finely chopped or shredded
 1 cup cilantro leaves, loosely packed
 10 yellow cherry tomatoes, quartered
 Garnishes:
 1/4 cup feta cheese crumbles
 Extra cilantro leaves
 Avocado slices or avocado rose (see link below for instructions on how to make these)

DIRECTIONS

Toss all salad fixings with Chimichurri Feta Dressing. Garnish with feta cheese crumbles, extra cilantro leaves and avocado slices or an avocado rose. Visit this link to learn how to make an avocado rose: <https://healthynibblesandbits.com/how-to-make-avocado-rose/>

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IFS features 'Riders Of Justice' inside newly reopened Orinda Theatre



Image provided

By Sophie Braccini

Lamorinda can reconquer the full breadth of its international culture now that the International Film Showcase returns to a reopened Orinda Theatre. The first movie is "Riders of Justice" a USA premiere from Denmark opening on May 14 featuring Mads Mikkelsen. A powerful and sometimes violent reflection on making sense of loss, the film is humorous and surprising, bordering on the absurd – a fitting feature for our troubled times.

Markus (Mads Mikkelsen) is a deployed soldier return-

ing home to take care of his teenage daughter after his wife is killed in a subway accident. The only way he knows to cope with trauma and pain is by reacting violently. At home, he finds Mathilde (Andrea Heick Gadeberg) his daughter, whom he does not understand. Those two do not do much to help each other, until a small group of misfit computer and math geniuses find Markus and tell him that his wife's death was the result of a deliberate attack. The unlikely team then launches a revenge expedition that will bring many surprises.

In an interview to CineEuropa, director Anders Thomas Jensen explained that his movie builds a universe that questions the meaning of life. He adds that there are different ways of reacting when there is no response to the question "Why?" and that revenge is one of them. Jensen explained that there are three different layers in his story: a drama, an action movie and an unbridled comedy. He built his film so spectators can at times laugh at something totally crazy then feel a completely different emotion. He wants people to be unsettled, asking themselves if they should laugh, and if they do, should they be embarrassed if the next scene is really dark.

Mads Mikkelsen, one of Denmark's best-known actors, is a moving pillar of locked-up grief. All he knows is to toughen it up. A kind of Danish Hulk, he does not know where his strength can take him. Mathilde, his daughter, tries to make sense of her mother's death through finding a logical string of events,

and a foundational occurrence that could explain it all. Otto, the math whiz, who was also involved in the accident, is not better adjusted than Markus. He too, along his two friends Lennart and Emmenhaler, go through life carrying enormous pain that they each mitigate in their own way. Seeking revenge is a catharsis for the four – Mathilde has no part in it – and at first it gives them meaning. But an interesting twist brings everything on its head.

This dark and definitely adult movie is highly entertaining, fast paced, and carried through by an excellent cast. Mikkelsen (that IFS aficionados will remember from "The Hunt") has a very powerful presence that immediately sets the tone of the movie. Facing him, Mathilde, still exhibiting the soft features of childhood, takes her place with strength. The three nerds, serious misfits, add the element of a tragic-comedy as awkward and deeply wounded human beings, bal-

ancing Markus' deep dark personality.

The movie is finally somewhat optimistic as these troubled individuals manage to bond and help each other, in their bizarre ways. It also questions the frailty of human testimony especially when powerful emotions interfere. It shows that it is convenient to overlook details when a hypothesis fits what we want desperately to believe; or to paraphrase the Skeptics Society's founder Michael Shermer, "We marshal the facts to fit the beliefs we already hold."

IFS's founder Efi Lubliner highly recommends that people wanting to see the movie at the Orinda Theatre purchase their seats in advance. To observe the COVID-19 restrictions, the film will play at the middle size theater restricting attendance to 50 people at each screening. There will be three screenings per day at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday; no screenings during the week.

Tickets can be purchased at www.eventbrite.com/e/international-film-showcase-riders-of-justice-tickets-151742555067

LLLCF Distinguished Speaker Series presents 'Guarding of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier'

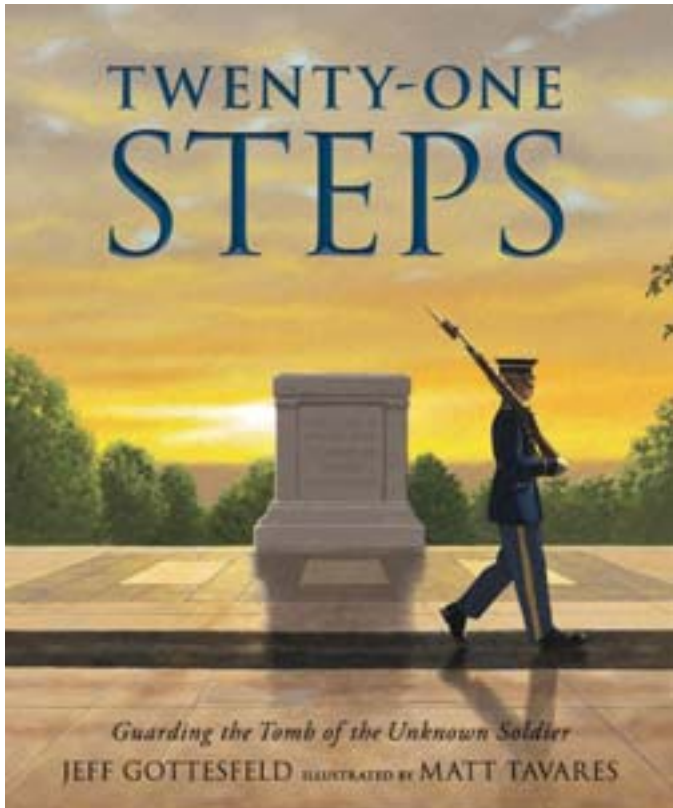


Image provided

By Diane Claytor

One of the more popular programs sponsored by Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation (LLLCF) is their Distinguished Speaker series. Pre-COVID, prominent authors would discuss, and often read, their books to an in-person audience. These days, of course, the presentations are done virtually.

On May 20 at 2 p.m., Jeff Gottesfeld will read and discuss his newest book, "Twenty-One Steps: Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." It's the story of the sentinels, those men and women who pay homage to America's fallen as they keep constant vigil at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

Sarah Blumenfeld, development and programs director for the Foundation, is particularly excited about this presentation.

"It's being done right before Memorial Day and is a great civic message demonstrating our deep respect for America's soldiers," she says.

Although geared towards third- and fourth-graders, Gottesfeld says that he always writes with the intent of delighting older readers as well, often providing previously unknown information. Writing from the viewpoint of the Unknown Soldier, "Twenty-One Steps" offers a perspective that adults will absolutely appreciate.

Gottesfeld has written for TV, theater, the stage and even wrote a movie. "Writing for kids like this is super special," he says. "It's an artistic challenge to tell a full, great story in less than 1,000 words. I write books that I think matter about people that are significant, even if they are not famous. The values of my books are very important to

me."

Kirkus Reviews states that Gottesfeld's book "impeccably honors its subject ... it's instantly personal and instantly heart-rendering." The Wall Street Journal says that this book, luminously illustrated by Matt Tavares, is a "work of sobering beauty." Penguin Books calls it "a tale that honors the soldiers who honor the fallen."

Steve Shodeen, a Bay Area resident and former sentinel (November 1991 through March 1995) will join Gottesfeld to share his experiences as a sentinel and answer questions. "Jeff and Matt put in a lot of effort to get everything just right. This book absolutely captures the honor and solemn attitude of the sentinels," Shodeen says.

To register for the May 20 program, go to cclib.bibliocommons.com. "Twenty-One Steps" may be purchased at Bel and Bunna's Books in Lafayette.