

Rack of Lamb Pops with Mint and Dried Cherry Gremolata

Recipe by Chef Anne Panchesson

Preheat oven to 450° F.

For Lamb:

2 Racks of Lamb (8 ribs), frenched. Salt & Pepper

Remove lamb from packaging, rinse and pat very dry with paper towels. Generously season all over with salt and pepper, place on a parchment lined sheet tray fat side up. Set aside for about an hour to an hour and a half.

In the meantime, prepare Gremolata (recipe below.)

Make sure the oven is preheated before searing lamb. On medium high, preheat a stainless steel or cast-iron skillet for a couple of minutes. Add 2 tablespoons of olive oil to the heated skillet, swirl around to coat the bottom of the pan. Add 1st rack of lamb to hot skillet, fat side down and sear until medium brown in color. Remove from skillet and put back on sheet tray, fat side up. Repeat with 2nd rack of lamb. This whole process should take no more than about 5-6 minutes.

Put sheet tray with lamb into preheated oven & roast to desired internal temperature:

125° F for medium rare 135° F for medium

This should take, depending on the size of the lamb racks, about 16-18 minutes for medium rare and about another 5-7 minutes for medium.

Remove from oven and let rest, tented with foil, for about 10-15 minutes. Slice each rib between the bones, arrange on a platter and either dollop with the gremolata or serve gremolata in a bowl to dip each lamb pop.

For Gremolata (yields 1 cup):

- ½ Cup of parsley, washed, dried, and picked
- 1 Bunch mint (chocolate mint if you can find it) washed, dried, and picked
- Zest of 1 lemon (meyer lemon if you can find it)
- 2 TBSP lemon juice
- 2 TBSP roasted garlic or garlic confit
- ½ Cup olive oil
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1/2 Cup dried cherries, finely diced
- * Optional: 1-2 teaspoons of either Pama or Chambord liqueur

Put parsley, mint, lemon zest & juice, and garlic in the bowl of a food processor. Turn on low to puree, scraping down once or twice to achieve a fine puree. Add olive oil and pulse to combine. Pour puree into a bowl. Fold in the diced cherries and season with salt & pepper, to taste. Serve at room temperature.

* Gremolata can be made up to a day ahead. Refrigerate but pull out in time to serve at room temperature.