Shrimp & Vegetable Tempura

This light dish is a favorite at home too. The sophisticated results belie the simple prep. This dish is great for an evening meal.

INGREDIENTS

Dipping Sauce

1 c. dashi*

½ c. reduced-sodium soy sauce

2 t. fresh ginger root, grated

½ t. sesame oil

Tempura Batter:

2 c. all-purpose flour

1 1/2 T. baking powder

2 T. sesame oil

½ t. salt

2-1/2 c. club soda, iced

Other:

1 lb. (roughly 16) shrimp, uncooked, peeled,

deveined with tail on

1/4 lb. fresh green beans, trimmed

1 large yam or sweet potato, cut into ¼" slices

1/4 lb. fresh shitake mushrooms

¼ lb. fresh broccoli florets

6 c. peanut or vegetable oil for frying

5 c. white rice, cooked

PROCEDURE

Heat the oil in a large frying pan to 325 degrees F**.

While oil is heating, sift together the dry batter ingredients in a medium bowl. Whisk in iced soda water, oil and ginger. Batter should have pancake-like consistency.

Dip shrimp and vegetables in small batches in batter. Fry in hot oil. Drain cooked tempura on paper towels. Continue cooking battered meat/vegetables in small batches. Serve immediately with hot, cooked white rice and dipping sauce.

NOTE FROM KENNY

It is important not to overload the fryer. Oil temperature is critical in order to have a light, crisp tempura.

ENJOY!



- * Dashi is a Japanese stock. Granules are available in stores. As a substitute, you can use beef broth with a dash of soy sauce, sugar and if you have it, fish sauce.
- ** If you don't have a thermometer, you can dip a bamboo stick to the bottom of the pan. Watch as the oil heats. When bubbles stream from the base of the skewer, it's hot enough to fry.