

Easy Chicken Biryani

Work: 30 min Total: 1 hr

This classic multi-spice Indian dish is often served on holidays. Our simplified version makes a great weeknight meal.

- 11/2 cups basmati rice
 - 2 tbsp unsalted butter
 - 1 medium onion, sliced root to tip
 - 1 bay leaf
 - 1/4 tsp ground cardamom
 - 3/4 tsp ground cinnamon
 - 3/4 tsp turmeric
 - 3/4 tsp kosher salt
 - 4 (about 13/4 lbs) boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into large pieces
 - 5 tbsp biryani curry paste, or mild curry paste
 - 1/2 cup raisins or currants
 - 3 cups low-sodium chicken broth
 - 3/4 cup frozen peas, thawed
 - 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
 - 1/2 cup sliced almonds, toasted
- Soak rice in warm water for 10 min, then rinse in cold water until the water runs clear; drain well in a fine sieve.
- 2. Heat butter in a 4- to 5-qt casserole or Dutch oven over medium heat and add the onion and bay leaf; cook until soft, about 10 min. Stir in the cardamom, cinnamon, turmeric, salt, chicken and curry paste and cook until aromatic, about 2 min. Stir in rice, raisins and broth. Cover, increase heat and bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer until chicken is done, 15 to 18 min. Uncover and cook until liquid is gone, about 5 min. Turn off heat,
- **3.** Gently stir in the peas and half the cilantro. Top with the rest of the cilantro and almonds. **SERVES 6**

replace lid and let stand for 10 min.

Per serving: 510 calories, 14.5 g total fat, 4 g sat fat, 812 mg sodium, 55 g carbs, 87 mg chol, 40 g protein, 4 g fiber

A traditional biryani calls for a paste of spices, herbs and chiles. To save time we used a prepared one. Our favorite is Patak's Biryani Curry Paste, but you can use any mild Indian curry paste. Look for Patak's products at your market or go to pataksusa.com.

