

## A Gluten-Free Thanksgiving

Stanley Tucci offers an alternative to the traditional sides

• I love pasta, and my kids love it. My son, Nico, adores it with mushrooms, but his all-time favorite is carbonara. We still make a lot of Calabrian pastas I learned how to cook from my family—ditali with cannellini beans, ziti with Italian canned tuna, great tomato sauces. I've never moved away from my Italian background; I just add to it.

When I was diagnosed recently with a gluten intolerance, I was heartbroken, because I knew pasta would be difficult. Much of the gluten-free pasta I first tried was terrible. But quinoa is a wonderful substitute. Our recipe for quinoa salad with pomegranate and pistachios is my wife Felicity's creation. It makes a great, very light side dish for Thanksgiving. She sometimes adds feta or goat cheese. I like adding raisins, for kind of an Arab touch. We love to cook together. We just make things up, and they often become family favorites.

Felicity and I met through a shared love of cooking. And it's now a nurturing way to keep our family anchored. I know I shouldn't be saying this, but sometimes I wish I could just stay home and cook all day. Only kidding, I love my job, but cooking has such a pull. —As told to Erica De Mane Actor Tucci says cooking is his passion.



## RECIPE

## **Quinoa With Pomegranate** and Pistachio

SERVES 6

- cups quinoa Salt and pepper
- tablespoons extravirgin olive oil
- 1½ tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- tablespoons pomegranate seeds, plus 2 tablespoons for serving
- tablespoons salted pistachios
- scallions, chopped
- orange, peeled and sliced into rounds (optional)

Extra-virgin olive oil, for the orange

- 1 Rinse the guinoa in cold water to remove its bitterness.
- 2 Bring 4 cups of salted water to a boil. Add the guinoa, reduce the heat to low, cover, and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes. Dress with the olive oil and lemon juice, season with salt and pepper, and set aside to cool.
- 3 Gently mix the pomegranate seeds, pistachios and scallions into the quinoa. Taste and adjust the seasoning.
- Serve with sliced oranges dressed with olive oil, if desired.

Nutrients per serving: 137 calories, 17g protein, 21g carbohydrates, 5g fiber, 10g fat, Omg cholesterol, 192mg sodium

Tucci's new cookbook with his wife, Felicity Blunt, is The Tucci Table: Cooking With Family and Friends.