Good Fortune Gold Coins

Makes 6 servings

2 medium lotus root, peeled, cut into ¼-inch- thick rings

2 tablespoons cornstarch

Filling:

6 ounces ground pork

3 large shrimp, shelled, deveined, minced

1 tablespoon chopped ginger

1 tablespoon chopped garlic

1 teaspoon sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon white pepper

1 tablespoon Shao Hsing rice wine or dry sherry

1 teaspoon sesame oil

4 tablespoons cooking oil

1/4 cup water

Sauce:

1 teaspoon minced garlic

1 small fresh red chili, minced

1 green onion, chopped

1 teaspoon sugar

1/2 cup chicken stock

1 tablespoon chili garlic sauce

1 tablespoon rice wine

1 teaspoon Chin Kiang vinegar or balsamic vinegar

1 teaspoon sesame oil

1 teaspoon cornstarch dissolved in 2 teaspoons water

- 1. Water-blanch lotus rings in boiling water for 1 minute. Drain and pat dry with paper towels. Dust lotus rings with cornstarch and set aside.
- 2. In a mixing bowl, combine filling ingredients; mix thoroughly. Spread 1 tablespoon filling onto a lotus ring and sandwich with another lotus ring.
- 3. Heat wok over medium-high heat until hot. Add oil, swirling to coat sides. Pan-fry lotus root pockets for 3 minutes on each side or until golden brown. Drain excess oil and add water; cover, reduce heat and simmer for 2 3 minutes or until liquid is absorbed.

4. Combine sauce ingredients in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Add cornstarch solution and stir until sauce thickens. Pour sauce over lotus pockets to serve.

Remark: You can adjust the amount of spiciness in the sauce.

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