

Panzanella Salad + Negroamaro 2023



PROVISIONS

5 oz or ½ loaf of a rustic Italian bread cut into 1-inch cubes

Extra virgin olive oil

Kosher salt

2 ¼ lbs of vine-ripe tomatoes, cut into small wedges or cubes

¼ cup red wine vinegar

2 garlic cloves, minced

½ tsp Dijon mustard

1 tsp fresh thyme, optional

Black pepper

2 small shallots, peeled and thinly sliced

½ cup packed fresh basil, torn

4 oz fresh baby mozzarella balls

COOK'S TIPS

It helps to cut the bread into cubes ahead of time and leave it out to dry for a few hours. Still, do not skip toasting the bread in the oven for a few minutes. This makes a big difference in texture and helps keep the salad from getting too soggy.

Dressing variation: You can pair down the dressing if you prefer something simpler. A bit of extra virgin olive oil and red wine vinegar is essential, the rest is up to you.

What kind of tomatoes to use? Any kind of tomatoes will work in tomato Panzanella Salad. Vine ripe tomatoes or an assortment of colorful heirloom tomatoes when they're in season are beautiful. If you use small cherry or grape tomatoes, be sure to still cut them in halves to be able to use their juice in the dressing.

DIRECTIONS



1. Heat the oven to 400 degrees F.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine bread cubes with large drizzle of extra virgin olive oil and a generous pinch of kosher salt. Toss to make sure the bread is well coated (save the bowl for later use). Spread the bread cubes on a sheet pan and bake in heated oven for about 10 minutes or until golden (the edges should get crisp, while the bread gains some color and crisp but remains still a bit chewy).
3. Place a large colander over the same mixing bowl. Place the tomatoes in the colander and sprinkle with kosher salt. Toss briefly with your hand. Set aside for a few minutes to allow the tomatoes to release their juices in the mixing bowl.
4. When ready, move the colander with the tomatoes to the sink for now, and use the mixing bowl with the tomato juice to make the dressing. Add red wine, ½ cup extra virgin olive oil, garlic cloves, Dijon mustard, thyme, and a large pinch of black pepper. Whisk to combine.
5. Add the tomatoes, bread cubes, shallots, basil and mozzarella to the mixing bowl and toss to coat with the dressing. Allow the salad to sit for 20 to 30 minutes before serving.
6. Give the salad a gentle toss and transfer to a serving platter. Garnish with a few more fresh basil leaves, if you like.

Panzanella Salad

