Fusilli with Green Beans, Pancetta and Parmesan

Description

Green beans, cooked until crisp-tender, are the star of this show. If you don't have some growing in your own garden, this dish is worth a quick stop at the farmers' market. The pasta's cooking water melts the cheese and turns it into a rich sauce that coats the beans and pulls everything together. If you can't find pancetta, substitute bacon.

Summary

Yield: 2
Prep Time: 20 minutes
Category: Pasta
Cuisine: American

Ingredients

- 1/2 lbs Fusilli
- 4 oz Pancetta cut into 1/2 squares about 3/4 cup
- 2 clove garlic, smashed and peeled
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter room temperature
- 1/2 lb green beans trimmed and cut into 1 inch lengths
- 2 oz finely grated Parmigiano-Reggiano (1 cup)

Instructions

Bring a medium pot of well-salted water to a boil. Cook the pasta until just barely al dente, about 1 minute less than package timing. Reserve 1 cup of the cooking water, and drain the pasta.

While the pasta cooks, put the pancetta in a cold 10-inch skillet and set over medium-high heat.

When the pancetta starts sizzling, add the garlic and cook, stirring constantly, until starting to brown, 1 minute. Reduce the heat to medium and continue to cook the pancetta until golden but still chewy at the center (taste a piece if you're not sure), an additional 2 to 3 minutes. If the pancetta has rendered a lot of its fat, spoon off all but 1 Tbs. of the fat from the pan.

Add the beans to the pan and cook, stirring constantly, until they're crisp-tender, 3 to 4 minutes. Remove the garlic and season the beans with salt and pepper. With the pan still over medium heat, add the pasta, 1/2 cup of the pasta water, and the butter. Toss to combine. Add another 1/4 cup pasta water and 3/4 cup of the Parmigiano. Stir well and season to taste with salt and pepper. If necessary, add a little more pasta water to loosen the sauce.

Transfer the pasta to a serving bowl. Grind black pepper over the top and sprinkle with the remaining cheese.