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A great piece of fish doesn't need much to make it sing. Try simply briefly marinating cubes of Aquna Bass in citrus juices then mixing them with a sharp, zingy salsa mix for a dish that pops with freshness.

Heston Blumenthal.



AQUNA

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BASS CEVICHE

Recipe by Heston Blumenthal

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE CHARRED SOFRITO

1 banana shallot, peeled and finely diced
1 green pepper
1 Romano pepper
10 cherry tomatoes
1 green chilli, seeds removed and chopped
50g olive oil
1 clove garlic, peeled
1 Tbsp Aji Dulce or Chilli Paste
1 Tbsp white wine vinegar
5g flat-leaf parsley leaves
5g dill, leaves picked
7g coriander leaves
salt and freshly ground black pepper

FOR THE AVOCADO SOUR CREAM

1 large, ripe avocado, peeled and roughly chopped
30g soured cream
salt and freshly ground black pepper

FOR THE DRIED CORIANDER LEAVES

small handful coriander leaves
olive oil

FOR THE CEVICHE

200g skinless and deboned Aquana bass fillets
salt
juice of 4 limes
juice of 1 orange
30g white soy
reserved sofrito

FOR THE TOSTONES

1 small green plantain
vegetable oil, for frying
salt

TO SERVE

reserved dried coriander leaves
reserved ceviche
served avocado sour cream
reserved plantain strips

METHOD

For the sofrito, soak the finely diced shallots in a bowl of cold water. Use a blow torch to burn the skins of the peppers and cherry tomatoes until they blister. Peel off and discard the skin. Dice the peppers (discard the seeds and core) and cut the tomatoes into quarters. Add the chopped green chilli. Drain the diced shallots and add to the chilli pepper mix. Heat the olive oil in a small pan over low-moderate heat. Crush the garlic clove with the back of a knife and add to the pan. Cook for 2 minutes then remove the pan from the heat and allow to infuse for 30 minutes. Strain the garlic oil into the bowl containing the chopped vegetables and mix well. Stir in the Aji Dulce or chilli paste and white wine vinegar. Finely chop all the herbs and add to the mixture, season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Set aside.

To make the avocado cream, blitz the chopped avocado and soured cream together using a hand blender. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Store covered in the fridge until needed.

For the dried coriander leaves, wrap a microwavable plate tightly with clingfilm and rub over a little oil. Place the picked coriander leaves flat on top and microwave for 3 minutes on high, checking on them every 20 seconds to ensure they do not burn. Gently place each leaf onto a plate lined with kitchen paper and reserve until needed.

To make the ceviche, cut the Aquana bass into cubes approx. 1 – 1.5cm. Sprinkle over ½ tsp salt and leave for 1 minute. Pour over the lime juice, orange juice and white soy. Gently toss to coat ensuring the fish remains submerged. Leave to marinate for 15 minutes. Stir in the reserved sofrito and adjust the seasoning with additional salt if needed.

For the tostones, peel the plantain and use a Japanese mandolin (blade set to 2mm) to slice the green plantain lengthways into 8-10 slices. Drizzle enough vegetable oil to cover the base of a large pan. Fry the plantains on both sides over high heat, approx. 2 minutes per side. Remove and set aside on a tray lined with kitchen paper. Season with salt and lay a large plate or tray on top to ensure they remain flat.

To serve, scatter the dried coriander leaves over the ceviche and serve on a platter alongside the avocado sour cream and crispy plantain strips.

