

Steamed Mussels

Makes enough for two to three people to share

Ingredients:

- 3 T. olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, shaved thin
- I shallot, sliced thin
- ½ cup fennel, shaved thin
- 1/8 t. crushed red pepper flake
- 2 lb. mussels, cleaned
- 2 t. kosher salt
- 2 oranges, zest & juice
- I cup dry white wine (A crisp, acidic Sauvignon Blanc was used in the Swine & Sons demo)
- · fresh thyme
- · fresh tarragon
- ½ lb. butter
- rustic country bread or baguette, toasted or grilled

Method:

- 1. Slice bread into thick slices. Season with a little olive oil and some salt. Toast or grill and then set aside.
- 2. Heat oil in a heavy sauté pan over medium heat. Add garlic, shallot, fennel, and crushed red pepper flake and sauté until aromatic, about one minute.
- 3. Add mussels, then salt to the pan. Stir to distribute salt. Turn the heat up to medium-high.
- 4. Add orange juice and zest, wine, herbs, and butter and cook on high until mussels pop open, butter melts, and a creamy-looking sauce is achieved. Be careful not to overcook mussels, as mussels that are overcooked will have an unpleasant rubbery texture! Properly cooked mussels should be plump and juicy.
- 5. Serve mussels and buttery broth in a deep bowl with grilled or toasted bread on the side. Use the bread to soak up the sauce. Enjoy with a glass of crisp white wine.



