pork positively good for you









Phil Vickery

Eating well is on everyone's agenda this year with news headlines regularly telling us that we should be following a more healthy lifestyle and cutting back on the amount of fat, sugar and salt in our diet. Lean pork is one of my family's favourite ingredients as it's versatile to cook with, it's naturally low in fat and sodium and it's also a great way of adding protein, vitamins and minerals to any meal. These great tasting recipes have never been so good for you!

Angela Dowden

If you're looking for a tasty option that's healthy too, lean pork fits the bill perfectly. It's protein rich (essential for body growth and repair), naturally low in sodium, and 100g of lean raw pork contains only 4q of fat. Pork also packs a nutritional punch as a rich source of vitamins. such as Vitamin B1 (Thiamin), important for energy release and B12 which helps protect against anaemia. These meal ideas will help top up your intake of these and other nutrients, and some of them also boast extra benefits from boosting immunity to helping to raise energy levels.

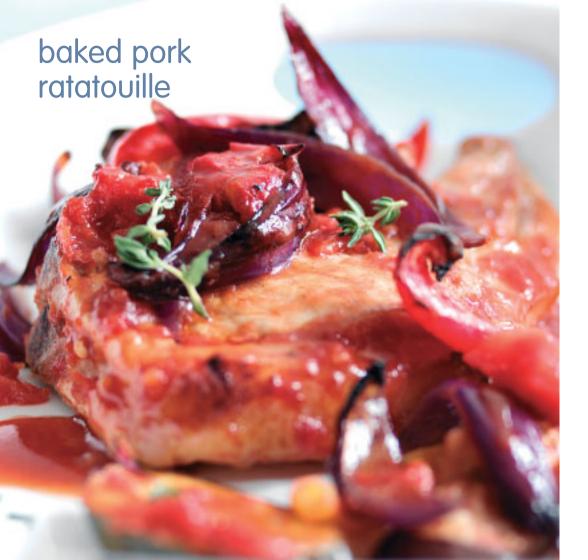


the recipes

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- sweet and sour pork mince balls

key to icons

- protein for growth & repair
- vitamins for vitality
- minerals for immunity
- fat low fat (3g, or less, per 100g)



serves

four

cook

35-40 minutes. Gas mark 6, 200°C, 400°F

COIS (per serving) 961 kJ/227 kcal

fat (per serving)

take

Lean pork chops
Red pepper
Yellow pepper
Red onion
Courgette
Aubergine
Can chopped tomatoes
Tomato ketchup
Fresh thyme leaves

make

Into a roasting tin place 1 red pepper, seeded and chopped, 1 yellow pepper, seeded and chopped, 1 red onion, cut into wedges, 1 courgette, cut into thick slices and 1 small aubergine, cut in half lengthways and sliced. Place into a preheated oven and cook for 10 minutes.

Stir through 440g (approx.) can chopped tomatoes and 15ml (1tbsp) tomato ketchup, and sprinkle with 15ml (1tbsp) fresh thyme leaves. Place 4 lean, fully trimmed pork chops on top and return to oven for 25-30 minutes.

eat

Serve with crusty bread and steamed green beans.

fat – low fat



vitamins - for vitality

Phil's tip

"This recipe is a great way of adding flavour without fat and the sunny colours are guaranteed to brighten up the dullest of days. Try serving with a portion of herby rice or crusty bread to mop up the sauce."

Angela says

"Pork contains vitamin B1. which helps to release energy from food, and vitamin B12. essential for the nervous system and protective against anaemia. As an extra benefit. the Mediterranean vegetables in this vitalising meal supply more than three times the daily suggested intake of Vitamin C. a great immunity booster to combat winter colds and flu."





Angela says

"This winter warmer is an unbeatable combination when winter colds and flu are doing the rounds. Pork contains both zinc and selenium and this recipe contains over a quarter of the recommended daily amount of zinc - an important mineral for a strong immune system and healthy skin - and also supplies selenium, an infection-fighting antioxidant that's also thought to protect against heart disease."

serves four

cook

1½-2 hours. Gas mark 3, 170°C, 325°F

COIS (per serving) 803 kJ/190 kcal

fat (per serving)
5g

take

Lean pork cubes*
Leek
Celery
Garlic
Tomato purée
Worcestershire sauce
Orange juice
Paprika
English mustard

make

Place 450g (1lb) lean, fully trimmed pork cubes* into an ovenproof casserole dish.

Add 1 leek, sliced, 2 sticks celery, sliced,
1 clove garlic, crushed, 15ml (1tbsp) tomato
purée, 15ml (1tbsp) Worcestershire sauce,
300ml (1/2pt) orange juice, 15ml (1tbsp)
paprika and 15ml (1tbsp) English mustard.

Mix well, cover and cook in a preheated oven
for 11/2-2 hours until tender.

eat

Serve with mashed swede, potato and carrot and a mixture of seasonal vegetables.

*Suitable cuts include braising cubes, shoulder or leg.



fat – low fat



minerals – for immunity

Phil's tip

"This hearty tomato based casserole is simple to prepare as an evening meal and it can be left to cook in the oven until tender. It's really comfort food at it's best – and what's more it's low in fat!"







Phil's tip

"Stir-frying is one of my favourite cooking methods, as it's healthy and it helps food keep its fresh flavours.

Here we combine pork with radish, pak choi and bean sprouts and add soy sauce, chilli and limes to create an exotic medley of zesty flavours and crunchy textures. And it only takes 10 minutes to make so it's great when your hunger can't wait."

serves

two

cook

10 minutes

COIS (per serving) 784 kJ/186 kcal

fat (per serving)

take

Lean pork loin or leg steaks or fillet Garlic Radishes Pak choi Beansprouts Soy sauce Sweet chilli sauce Lime juice Fresh coriander

make

Cut 225g (8oz) lean, fully trimmed pork loin or leg steaks or fillet into thin strips or thin slices and dry fry in a hot non-stick pan for 3-4 minutes until browned. Add 1 clove garlic, crushed, 100g (4oz) radishes, sliced, 1 head pak choi, sliced, and 100g (4oz) beansprouts and cook for a further 2-3 minutes.

Mix together 5ml (1tsp) soy sauce, 30ml (2tbsp) sweet chilli sauce and the juice of 1 lime.

Add to the pan and cook for a further minute, then sprinkle over 15ml (1tbsp) fresh coriander, chopped.

eat

Serve with rice or noodles and extra vegetables.

Note: if you do not have a non-stick pan/wok use a very small quantity of oil to stop sticking.

Angela says

"Low fat doesn't normally get this delicious! Lean pork is only 4 per cent fat and over half of the fat is the beneficial unsaturated form, predominant in the Mediterranean diet. You'll also get a portion of vegetables in this recipe."



serves

four

cook

approx. 30 minutes

COIS (per serving)

fat (per serving)
5g

take

Lean minced pork
Tomato ketchup
Black pepper
Onion
Red pepper
Baby sweetcorn
Can pineapple chunks
in natural juice
Mango chutney
Worcestershire sauce
Tomato purée
Frozen peas



fat – low fat



protein – for growth & repair

make

Mix 450g (1lb) lean, minced pork with 30ml (2tbsp) tomato ketchup and season with black pepper. Shape into 12 meatballs. Dry fry in a large lidded non-stick pan for 4-5 minutes until browned.

Add 1 onion, chopped, 1 red pepper, seeded and chopped, 150g (5oz) baby sweetcorn, cut in half, 432g (approx.) can pineapple chunks in natural juice, 30ml (2tbsp) mango chutney, 30ml (2tbsp) tomato ketchup, 15ml (1tbsp) Worcestershire sauce, and 30ml (2tbsp) tomato purée. Mix well, cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes. During the last 5 minutes add 100g (4oz) frozen peas and stir through.

eat

Serve with spaghetti, rice or noodles and perhaps extra peas.

Phil's tip

"These delicious bite-sized 'sweet and sour' mince balls are a real favourite with kids and so easy to make. Why not get them to help too?"

Angela says

"Pork is an excellent source of protein, which not only helps keep hunger at bay but is also needed for the growth, repair and replenishment of body tissue.

This recipe is ideal for all kids, especially when they are going through a growth spurt and have high protein demands. A serving also provides the full daily requirement of Vitamin B1, needed for vitality and energy, and Vitamin C, which boosts the immune system."





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British Meat Quality Standard Mark

When buying pork, bacon or ham always look out for meat carrying the British Meat Quality Standard Mark to ensure you're using ingredients produced to very high standards of welfare, quality control and traceability.

Nutritional analysis is based on raw, fully trimmed, lean pork.

Photography by Steve Lee