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FOOD

Alaskan king crab

March 14, 2012, 4:44 pm • Section: Food, Signature Dish



Alaskan king crab with Seville orange water, sour berry herb croquette and sunchokes

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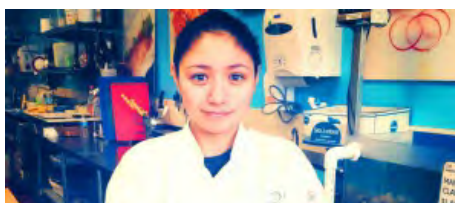
Posted by:
 **Chef Hamid Salimian**



Once again, it is the season for Alaskan king crab, running until around the end of April or beginning of May. This is actually my favorite time of the year because the arrival of fresh king crab is quickly followed by other local seafood and spring vegetables from our local farms.

You have probably seen *Deadliest Catch* on TV, where a group of fishermen go out into the wild sea to catch Alaskan king crab. From what I understand, catching king crab is not easy. And it's also not easy to purchase good king crab outside of the season.

You've likely seen on restaurant menus the option to add a "side of king crab." Well, if it's not during the short season for the crab, then it has been previously cooked and



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frozen, then cut in half with a band saw. Because the edges of the king crab shell are so sharp, it can rarely be properly vacuum-sealed or glazed for freezing. So what you sometimes get is crab meat that tastes of cardboard and/or ammonia and has been freezer burned to its shell. So enjoying Alaskan king crab in season is all the more important!



Jasmine at Fish market

Our king crab at the Diva at the Met comes from one of our favorite seafood providers, **FISH** [<http://www.eatfish.ca/>] in Burnaby. We bring in our crab live a few times each week to ensure we are serving the freshest crab meat. At home you could also purchase fresh king crab legs daily at FISH or another quality fishmonger. The advantage of purchasing fresh legs for home is that all the hard work of blanching and cleaning the crab is done for you.

Once you have the crab legs at home, a simple preparation is all that you need. Toss the meat in little bit of olive oil, then grill and finish with chopped parsley and lemon juice. You can serve some olive oil or melted butter with lemon on the side for dipping. In fact, at Diva we prepare them in a similar way, cooking the whole crab, cleaning the meat, and then tossing the legs in olive oil before we grill them to order. This week on our tasting menu we have grilled Alaskan king crab with Seville orange water, sour berry herb croquette and sunchokes – a great way to celebrate the season!


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