BEEF STUFFED BELL PEPPERS

YIELD: 4 Servings

INGREDIENTS:

1 lb. 90% lean ground beef

4 mushrooms, chopped

3 ears of fresh corn kernels or 11/2 cups frozen corn

2 ribs of celery, thinly chopped

1 medium onion, chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced

2-14.5 oz. cans petite diced tomatoes with juice

2 Tbsp. concentrated tomato paste

2 Tbsp. basil

1 Tbsp. oregano

1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

11/2 cups cooked long grain rice

1/4 cup chopped Italian parsley

6 bell peppers

1 cup shredded fontina or Monterey jack cheese

PREPARATION:

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Brown the ground beef in a large fry pan over medium high heat for 5 minutes or until cooked almost through.

Add the mushrooms, corn kernels, chopped celery, onion and garlic and cook until vegetables are softened. Stir in the diced tomatoes, tomato paste, basil, oregano and red pepper flakes. Season with kosher salt and ground pepper to taste and cook for 15-20 minutes. Stir in cooked rice and chopped parsley and cook for another 5 minutes or until the rice is warmed through.

Meanwhile, cut off the tops of the peppers and spoon out the ribs and seeds, then rinse. Lightly sprinkle the inside of the peppers with kosher salt and place in a microwave safe dish with 1/4 cup water. Cover with plastic wrap and microwave for 5 minutes or until they start to soften.

Transfer to a 3 quart baking dish and fill the peppers with the hot meat and rice mixture. Sprinkle the tops with cheese and bake for 20 minutes or until peppers are tender and cheese is browned. Serve hot.

Recipe adapted from foodiecrush.com