

Stuffed butternut squash

By Susie Iventosch



Photos Susie Iventosch

ternut squash is, but the one I bought would be enough for four or even six side dishes and anywhere between two and four main dishes. I ate an entire half by myself and didn't really need quite that much, but it was so good that I couldn't stop!



Fall is just around the corner, and it seems like the perfect time to do a colorful "harvesty" recipe. This one has a cornucopia of delicious ingredients! I usually buy acorn squash, but the other day a butternut

squash caught my eye, and I decided to stuff that instead!

As with most stuffings, you can create your own out of whatever you might have in your refrigerator, but for this one I purposefully used dried cranberries and arugula for the color, which are so pretty with the roasted butternut squash. The rest of this stuffing includes sautéed onions, toasted walnuts, pecans, and turkey sausage for a little protein. You can make this as a vegetarian dish, too ... just leave out the turkey sausage.

The ingredients call for red jalapeño jelly, which gives it a little kick, but if you don't have that no worries; just make it without.

It all depends upon how big or small the but-



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>

Baked Stuffed Butternut Squash

(Serves 4 as a side and 2 as a main dish)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large butternut squash, cut in half lengthwise and seeds removed
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 yellow onion, coarsely chopped
- 6 turkey sausage breakfast links (or patties) chopped
- 3/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup pecan pieces, toasted
- 1/2 cup walnut pieces, toasted
- 2 cups arugula leaves, loosely packed
- 3 oz. feta cheese, crumbled
- 1 tsp. lemon pepper seasoning
- 1/2 tsp. dried sage
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground pepper
- 2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- 2 tbsp. Jalapeno red pepper jelly

DIRECTIONS

Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray. Preheat oven to 425 F.

Cut squash in half lengthwise. Remove seeds and brush the cut sides and the cavity with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper.

Place face down on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for about 45-50 minutes or until you can easily insert a knife into the flesh of the squash and the cut side is nicely browned. Remove from oven and cool.

Once cool, use a spoon or knife to cut out the flesh of the squash, leaving about 1/2-inch all the way around on the remaining shell of the squash. Leave the squash shells, hollow side up on the baking sheet. Cut the squash meat into bite-sized pieces. Set aside.

Meanwhile, heat 2 tbsp. olive oil in a large skillet and sauté onions until translucent and beginning to brown. Stir in lemon pepper, sage, salt, and pepper. Add sausage and continue to brown. Once the sausage is browned, add the nuts, cranberries, and half of the arugula, and sauté for just a few more minutes, until arugula begins to wilt. Remove from heat and add the remaining arugula, the squash pieces, and feta cheese. Toss all together and then fill the squash cavities with this mixture. Drizzle balsamic vinegar over the filling and edges of the squash. If you are adding the jalapeño jelly, then just distribute it a little here and a little bit there. It will melt into the filling as it bakes.

Preheat oven to 400 F and bake for another 30 minutes or so at 400 F, until heated through and the feta cheese is beginning to brown slightly. Serve hot.



'Close Your Eyes' - a unique and melancholic film from Spain, opens in Orinda

By Sophie Braccini

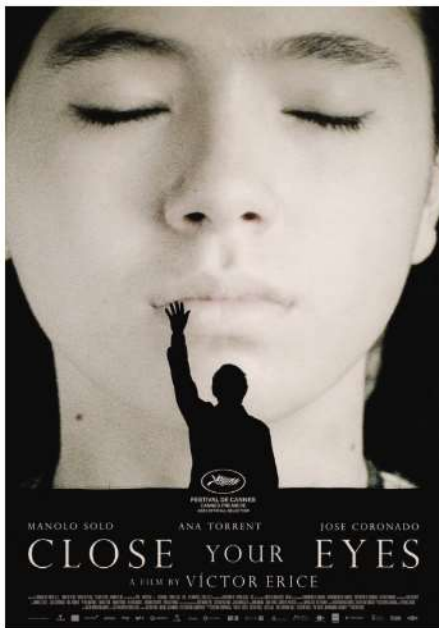


Image provided

find his daughter who has disappeared in Shanghai, taken away by her Chinese mother who has changed her name. As he approaches death, Levy feels that only his daughter could see him one last time for who he really is. We are in the middle of a romantic tale, the detective is about to leave for a mysterious land, it feels like the beginning of an old adventure movie with characters bigger than life.

And it turns out that this was an illusion inside an illusion. When the scene cuts, we understand that we were the witnesses to the filming of a movie that was never finished because Julio Arenas, the famous Spanish actor who played the detec-

tive, disappeared before the end of the filming. His body was never found and the police concluded it was an accident.

We are now 22 years later. A live TV show that aims at solving cold cases takes on the old mystery and interviews Arenas' best friend and director of the movie, Miguel Garay. Garay, whose life seems to have been put on pause by what happened, has to return to Madrid and is taken back to his past with its unresolved questions. He could have stayed locked in his recollections, but a note from someone who saw the TV show sends him into a wild goose chase.

The different periods and the different stories are intertwined

and interact around the concepts of loss, identity, and memory. It is like an origami that slowly unfolds to reveal a palimpsest where several lives have been imprinted and erased.

This film was directed by legendary Spanish filmmaker Victor Erice. Within the span of 50 years Erice made four movies, and this one is his latest creation. In an interview with the film magazine Little White Lies published in April of 2024, he said that "What this new film talks about is an(...) unfinished film as well as the whole idea of "unfinishedness" and what that means in art and life." The revered director explained that cinema is for him existential and a form of

destiny. His movies question the relationship between the real world and cinema. Can it have an impact on reality? "Close Your Eyes," asks the question but does not answer it, leaving each spectator to find their own answer.

The movie opens at the Orinda Theater on Sept. 13. For more information and tickets go to www.orindamovies.com/

*The International Film Showcase is a Lafayette non-profit that selects acclaimed international films that have not been distributed locally and negotiates projection in several independent Bay Area cinemas. It can be found at internationalshowcase.org

The movie brought to Orinda this month by the International Film Showcase* is a piece of cinematic art of a quality that people do not often get to see. It is not a thriller, even if there is an enigma. It is a long and poetic voyage, about memory, oblivion, and cinema itself. Playing wonderfully with what is real and what is imagined, with a film inside the film, with reality TV

inside the film, with the past and the present, this absolutely unique movie is a melancholic masterpiece, worthy of the seventh art. It opens in Orinda on Sept. 13, and will play for at least a week.

The movie opens in 1947, in the castle of Triste-le-Roi, in France. An old man, frail and rich, named Levy, has summoned a private detective. He wants him to

100th birthday celebration



Leslie Thor Schreiner celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends on August 24 at Rancho Laguna Park. Submitted by Tim Thor

Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

Tree Service

East Bay Tree Service

Tree removal, stump removal, Juniper removal to meet fire regulations.

925-377-TREE

Serving Lamorinda for over 30 years.

Rental needed

52 yr. old women - employed, clean living, no pets. Needs affordable studio or 1 bed apt near public transit in Lamorinda. 571-298-5525

Tutoring

MATH & SCIENCE TUTOR

20+ years of experience. Tairi Nishizawa 510-332-9864 entropically.com

Fencing

Custom Quality Fencing



925-938-9836

- Good Neighbor Fence
- Deer Fencing
- Picket/Split Rail
- RV Gates
- Trellis and Arbors
- Retaining Walls
- Insurance/Storm Repairs

Licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491

Structural Repairs

Since 1989

Alameda Engineering DRAINAGE SYSTEMS RETAINING WALLS FOUNDATIONS UNDERPINNING LANDSLIDE REPAIRS

510-537-6550

General Engineering Contractors

Lic. # 562641

alamedaengineering@comcast.net

alameda-engineering.com

Rototilling

Ken's Rototilling 4-wheel-drive Tractor Hillside Weed Cutting Juniper & Brush Removal

To Fire Dept. Regulations Free estimates! 925-938-9836 licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491 www.kensrototilling.com

Plumbing



WE HOP TO IT!

(925) 377-6600

LeapFrogPlumbing.com

Plot for sale

Cemetery plot for sale Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, Lafayette Section St. Mary, Row 13, Plot 29, purchased 2019

Have all paper work needed to transfer title, \$12,000 contract Roni Barger bargeroni@sbcglobal.net

\$21 per 1/2" classified ad height. Email to: classified@lamorindaweekly.com