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Savory and Sweet Recipes for Every Occasion from the Master Chocolatier

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Text by Lavinia Branca Snyder Photography by Mark Roskams



## Pork Loin Stuffed with Prunes. Walnuts & Bacon

The pork tenderloin is a cut from the area between the shoulder and back legs of the pig. A stuffing of dried fruit, walnuts, and bacon balances sweet and savory.

• SERVES 8 •

 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup (60 ml) extra-virgin olive oil

3 shallots, thinly sliced

8 strips bacon, chopped

6 ounces (170 g) cremini mushrooms, thinly sliced

31/2 cups (430 g) pitted prunes or dried apricots, chopped

1/4 cup (35 g) dried cherries

 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup (35 g) raisins

1/4 cup (25 g) walnuts

1/4 cup (10 g) fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped

11/4 teaspoons (6 g) kosher salt

1/2 teaspoon (2 g) freshly ground black pepper

One 21/2-pound (1.2-kg) pork tenderloin, silver skin removed

Preheat the oven to 400°F/205°C.

In a medium ovenproof skillet, heat 2 tablespoons (30 ml) of the oil over medium heat. Add the shallots and cook, stirring occasionally, until translucent, about 4 minutes. Add the bacon and cook, stirring occasionally, until browned, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the mushrooms and continue to cook until the mushrooms start to soften, about 3 minutes. Add the prunes, cherries, raisins, walnuts, and parsley and cook, stirring, until soft, about 5 minutes. Season with ½ teaspoon (1 g) salt and ½ teaspoon (1 g) pepper. Cook for 1 additional minute, stirring constantly. Transfer to a plate and set aside. Wipe out the skillet and reserve.

Using a sharp knife, cut a slit all the way down the long end of the tenderloin, making sure not to cut all the way through. Open the tenderloin like a book. Cover the pork with a piece of plastic wrap and pound it with the flat side of a meat mallet until about 1/4 inch (6.5 mm) thick, taking care not to tear the meat.

With a spoon, spread the mushroom mixture evenly over the surface of the meat, leaving a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (1.2 cm) border free on all sides.

Roll up the meat tightly, jelly-roll style, and truss with twine or secure with 6 to 7 toothpicks. (Try to poke the toothpicks through parallel to one another to create a flat cooking surface.) Season all over with the remaining 1 teaspoon (5 g) salt and 1/4 teaspoon (1 g) pepper.

Heat the remaining 2 tablespoons (30 ml) oil in the reserved skillet over medium heat. Once the oil is hot, add the pork seam-side or toothpick-side down and sear until browned all over, about 2 minutes per side. Transfer the skillet to the oven and roast until the pork is just cooked through and an instant-read thermometer registers  $145^{\circ}$ F/62°C in the thickest part of the meat, 18 to 20 minutes.

Transfer the pork to a cutting board, brush with any pan drippings, and allow to rest for 10 minutes before removing twine or toothpicks and slicing.