Smokey Sausage Sliders with BBQ Bacon Jam and Pickled Red Onions

Author: Chef Ross Katz Prep Time: Apx. 2hrs Yield: 12 sliders

Description:

The perfect game day dish to show off your skills with your smoker and in the kitchen.

Ingredients:

Sausage

Ground Pork – 1 Lb

Kosher Salt - 1 1/2 tsp

Granulated Garlic - 1/2 tsp

Onion Powder - 1/4 tsp

Black Pepper - 1/4 tsp

Brown Sugar - 1 tsp

Smoked Paprika - 1/4 tsp

Chili Flakes - 1/4 tsp

Chili Powder - 1/4 tsp

Celery Salt - 1/4 tsp

BBQ Bacon Jam

Bacon (Diced) - 1 lb

Onion (minced) - 1/2 ea

Cider Vinegar - 1/4 cup

Ketchup - 1/4 cup

Molasses - 2 Tbsp

Chili Powder - 1 Tbsp

Black Pepper - 1 tsp

Granulated Garlic - 1/2 tsp

Onion Powder - 1/4 tsp

Brown Sugar - ½ cup

Course Mustard - 1/4 cup

Pickled Red Onions

Red Onion (Sliced Thin) - 1 ea

Jalapeno (Sliced Thin) - 1 ea

Kosher Salt - 1 Tbsp

Brown Sugar – 1 Tbsp

Cider Vinegar - ½ cup

Water - 1/4 cup

Slider Assembly

Hawaiian Rolls - 1 - 12pk

Pepper Jack Cheese - 6 slices

Butter - 1 stick

Granulated Garlic - 1 tsp

Kosher Salt - 1/2 tsp

Directions

- 1. Combine your ground pork with your sausage spices and mix well.
- 2. Set your sausage mix aside to marinate and begin working on your BBQ Bacon Jam and Pickled Red Onions.

BBQ Bacon Jam

- 1. In a medium saucepan, begin cooking your bacon until crispy.
- 2. Once your bacon bits are crispy, remove them from the pan, and pour off all but 2 Tbsp of the bacon fat.
- 3. Add your minced onions to the pan, and sauté till translucent.
- 4. Deglaze your pan with the cider vinegar, and then add your ketchup, molasses, your spices, brown sugar, mustard, and last your crispy bacon.
- 5. Bring the whole mixture to a simmer and cook until you achieve a thick jammy consistency.
- 6. Cool and store till you are ready to use.

Pickled Red Onions

- Shave your onions and jalapenos as thin as possible, and set in a heat-resistant bowl
- 2. Combine your salt, sugar, vinegar, and water in a small saucepan and bring to a boil.
- 3. Pour the vinegar brine over your onions and jalapenos, and store for at least 30 minutes or in the fridge for up to a month.

Slider Assembly

- 1. Pre-Heat your Traeger Pellet Grill to 350 degrees with your favorite pellet blend.
- 2. Slice your King's Hawaiian rolls lengthwise while keeping your rolls connected.
- 3. Line a baking pan with parchment paper, and brush liberally with butter.
- 4. Lay the bottom portion of your King's Hawaiian rolls in the pan and spread the raw sausage mix evenly over the buns.
- 5. Leave the top buns off and smoke your sausage sliders for 20 mins. in your Traeger.
- 6. After 20 minutes of smoking, add your pepperjack cheese and top buns, and a dollop of bacon jam to each slider. Put the bun tops on the sliders, and brush with melted butter, then sprinkle lightly with granulated garlic and kosher salt
- 7. Bake for another 10 minutes then remove from the smoker.
- 8. Allow about 5 minutes to cool, and serve with your pickled red onions