

# Black Rice and Sausage Stuffed Patty Pan Squash

simple  
healthy  
delicious

## Ingredients

- *Extra virgin olive oil*
- *4-6 patty pan squash*
- *½ lb ground pastured pork sausage*
- *2 yellow bell peppers, chopped*
- *½ large onion, chopped*
- *1 ½ cups Nature's Earthly Choice™ Black Rice, cooked*
- *¼ cup Panko bread crumbs*
- *¾ cup ricotta cheese*
- *Salt and pepper to taste*
- *Marinara for topping (optional)*

## Directions

1. *Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Grease a 9 x 13 in baking dish lightly with olive oil.*
2. *The recipe will fit 6 small squash or 4 larger squash. Wash the squash. Slice off the tops, and using a spoon, gently scoop out the insides. Don't scoop all the way through the bottom. You want to create a cup to hold the filling. Chop up the squash you scooped out and set aside.*
3. *Lightly coat the squash cups in olive oil and pierce with a fork in a few spots. Bake the squash for about 15 minutes, until they began to soften. Remove from the oven and set aside.*
4. *In a skillet, brown the sausage on medium heat. When it is about half way done, add the bell peppers, onion and the chopped squash you scooped out. Cook until the sausage is no longer pink.*
5. *Stir the rice, breadcrumbs and ricotta into the sausage. Add salt and pepper to taste.*
6. *Once the filling is cool enough to handle, divide it evenly into each squash. Pile it high and press gently with a spoon so that it is compact.*
7. *Bake for 20 or more minutes, or until the squash is tender when pierced with a fork. Top with marinara before serving.*

