

Tomatoes

Tomato & Earl Grey Consommé

Serves - Six as an entrée or about 1.5-2 litres yield

2kg ripe vine tomatoes

Chop the tomatoes into small pieces and place in a bowl with the remaining ingredients.

4 eshallots – peeled and finely sliced

Crush together all the ingredients until pulpy and aromatic.

100ml white wine

Cling film and leave to marinate in the refrigerator for 4 hours.

50ml Chardonnay vinegar

500ml Earl grey tea – strength to your liking

Hang the contents in cheesecloth over another container to capture all the clear aromatic liquid that is released; allow to hang for about 2-3 hours.

Basil leaves – torn

Serve the consommé well chilled.

Salt, pepper and sugar – to taste



Justin North Becasse

“How hard can it possibly be to get a good tomato? An often difficult assignment in Australia, we work very hard with our suppliers and growers to get the best tasting ripest, most juiciest and of course full flavoured tomatoes possible.

I have fond memories as a child, picking tomatoes from our glasshouse with my father in the evenings for our salads and various dishes for our evening meals as I was growing up. Tomatoes should be warmed and ripened under the gentle sun and picked and eaten straight from the vine, a good tomato not only should look appetizing but an intoxicating aroma is also important, they should be dense and packed full of juicy goodness.”

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Growing Tips

- 1) Don't crowd seedlings**
Be sure to give the seedlings room to branch out. Close conditions inhibit their growth.
- 2) Provide lots of light**
Tomato seedlings will need either strong, direct sunlight.
- 3) Bury them**
Bury tomato plants deeper than they come in the pot, all the way up to a few top leaves.
- 4) Mulch later**
Mulch after the ground has had a chance to warm up.
- 5) Pinch & Prune**
Pinch and remove suckers that develop in the crotch joint of two branches. They won't bear fruit and will take energy away from the rest of the plant.
- 6) Water regularly**
Water deeply and regularly while the plants are developing. Irregular watering, (missing a week and trying to make up for it), leads to blossom end rot and cracking.

