



Grilled Asparagus & Onions

Serves 10-12 as a side dish

Prep Time: 10 minutes Grill Time: 30 minutes

Total Time: 40 minutes

- 2-1/2 pounds asparagus (about 2 large bunches), trimmed
- 8 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 large sweet onion (such as Vidalia), cut into 1/2-inch disks and threaded onto metal skewers
- 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 2 tsp chopped fresh thyme
- 3 ounces good-quality blue cheese, crumbled (3/4 cup)
- 1/3 cup thinly sliced dates or dried Black Mission figs (preferably small ones)
- 1/4 cup pine nuts, toasted

Heat a gas grill to medium or prepare a medium charcoal fire.

Put the asparagus on a rimmed baking sheet, drizzle with 2 tablespoons of the oil, and season with 1/2 teaspoon of the salt and a few generous grinds of black pepper. Turn to coat. Grill the asparagus (covered on a gas grill) until they have nice grill marks, about 4 minutes. Turn and continue cooking until tender and browned, about 4 more minutes; transfer to a large platter. Reduce the heat on the gas grill to medium low or let the charcoal burn down a bit.

On a rimmed baking sheet, coat the onions with 2 tablespoons of the oil, the remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt, and several grinds of pepper. Grill, covered, until tender and browned, 8 to 10 minutes per side. Return the onions to the baking sheet.

In a small bowl, whisk together the remaining 1/4 cup olive oil, the vinegar, and thyme. Toss the asparagus with about half the vinaigrette and then arrange neatly on the platter. Scatter the onions over the asparagus and drizzle with the remaining vinaigrette. Sprinkle with the blue cheese, dates or figs, and pine nuts, and serve; this can sit for up to 1 hour at room temperature.

Recipe from Fine Cooking