



Braised Lamb Shank  
Mini Cookbook



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## A NOTE FROM CHEF PHILIPPE

**ilili** (pronounced ee.l.ee.lee) means “tell me” in colloquial Lebanese. Our story is embedded in the rich heritage of Lebanese cuisine and hospitality. It began three generations ago in a small village in Mount Lebanon and evolved inside the walls of Beirut’s most iconic hotel, the Coral Beach, finding its way to the bustling streets of New York City.

Since 2007, our home in the Flatiron District has introduced the passion and generosity of the Lebanese table to hundreds of thousands of curious diners.

We passionately craft a sophisticated blend of modern and traditional Lebanese cuisine, drawing influences from across the eastern Mediterranean.

Flavorful herbs and spices combine to delight the palate; earthy and delicate textures emerge from innovative combinations of savory and sweet. Each bite reveals a deeper story behind the birth of the Mediterranean.

Our warm hospitality drives our mission to make every guest and team member feel fundamentally honored and genuinely welcomed.

We hope you will enjoy your meal as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you.

Warmly,

Philippe Massoud  
Executive Chef/Owner



Grandfather Alexander Massoud  
with his brothers in Beirut in front of Massoud Bros  
Restaurant, Patisserie & Catering Fall 1920



Coral Beach Hotel Opening  
Summer 1964

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

We have packed all the items in a convenient way to help you stay organized in your cooking.

Every item has its menu name and index number.

i.e. If a menu item has four ingredients, you will see the menu item's name and: 1/4, 2/4, 3/4, 4/4. The (/) signifies (of).

This was done to insure that you keep your ingredients organized when you unpack your box and when ready to cook.

Some ingredients will not have an index because they are used in multiple recipes such as cherry tomatoes, parsley, olive oil, salt and sumac.

All ovens behave differently, so the temperatures provided are an approximation.

When you unpack your box, only the baklava, olive oil, sumac and kosher salt containers should be kept at room temperature. **Make sure to refrigerate remaining ingredients immediately upon arrival.**

Let us know how we did on Survey Monkey.



## TODAY'S MENU

### HUMMUS

CHICKPEA PUREE / TAHINI / LEMON / OLIVE OIL

### CHANKLEESH

SEASONED FETA / ONION / TOMATO / ZAATAR / OLIVE OIL

### FATTOUSH

ROMAINE / PARSLEY / ARUGULA / MINT / TOMATO / RADISH / CUCUMBER / TOASTED PITA  
POMEGRANATE SUMAC LEMON VINAIGRETTE

### EGGPLANT MOUSSAKA

ROASTED EGGPLANT / TOMATO / GARLIC / ONION

### BRAISED LAMB

BRAISED GRASS FED LAMB / MINTED YOGURT WITH CUCUMBER

### ROASTED VEGETABLES

BABY TURNIPS / RADISH / BABY CARROTS / BABY ZUCCHINI

### LEBANESE DIRTY RICE

JASMINE RICE / CINNAMON / ROSEMARY / ONION / GROUND LAMB

### HOME MADE SAUCES & PICKLES

HARISSA / VERY SPICY ASSORTED PEPPER PASTE

ASSORTED PICKLES

### BAKLAVA PETIT FOURS

Suggested Beverages with this meal: Rose Wine, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah

## BRAISED LAMB

Prepare all your other dishes before the main course. The lamb shanks were braised at the restaurant with vegetables, lamb stock, rosemary, Lebanese spices and wine. The liquids from the braise are then used to make the sauce.

You have been provided with one to two shanks depending on the size, lamb stock, sauce, lebanese dirty rice, assorted vegetables to roast and minted yogurt with diced cucumber.

**Please read all the instructions before commencing:**

1. Toss your vegetables (1/5) with some olive oil, season with salt, place them on a baking sheet and roast at 500°F for 15-25 minutes depending on the type of oven you have. The vegetables should be fork tender, but not mushy, showing some caramelization.
2. While the vegetables are roasting, place your rice in a pot (2/5) your sauce (3/5) in a pot, on low heat, covered, and occasionally stir.
3. Place your shanks (4/5) in a pot and pour the stock (5/5) and an equal amount of water on top and cover.



4. Bring to a boil and lower the heat to a slow simmer for about 7-9 minutes covered, turn of the heat and reserve.
5. Now your vegetables are ready, your rice and sauce are warm, and your shanks are hot and ready to be served.
6. In a large platter place the rice in the center and spread, place the vegetables on the edges, and the shanks in the center of the plate.
7. Pour some sauce over the shanks, and the remainder in a vessel for your guests to add more if they would like.

You are now ready to serve this dish.

#### CHEF'S NOTES:

Make sure to time yourself correctly. Traditionally you always start with the cold items, and then leave the hot food for last so that all is ready in time for serving at the table.

Remember to salt your shanks if you want more flavor, we normally keep sodium at a min level.

You should plan about 1 hr to prepare this entire meal or less if you are a knowledgeable cook.



## HUMMUS

Our hummus is prepared in a traditional Lebanese way without garlic or cumin. It is hummus in its purest form; a perfect blend of chickpeas, tahini and lemon. Should you wish to add garlic and cumin to it, do not hesitate.

1. Place the hummus in the center of the plate as if you were building a mound. With a large spoon, gently press in the center of the hummus pushing your spoon outward, in order to create a well effect.
2. You should spread the hummus to the outer edges of the plate and ideally should have no more than 1/4 to 1/2 inch thickness in the center and thicker edges as shown in this picture. (1/2)
3. Decorate the hummus with the provided Aleppo pepper at 12, 3, 6 and 9 o'clock or 12&6. (2/2)
4. Drizzle a 1/4 to 1/2 cup of olive oil provided inside the well you created.
5. Hummus should be served slightly colder than room temp.



## CHANKLEESH

Traditionally, Chankleesh is a ripened sun dried yogurt cheese. This version is an emulation of the original and is made with a very high grade feta cheese.

1. Cut approximately 4-5 cherry tomatoes into eights.
2. Dice your onion into a brunoise (small dice)(2/2).
3. In your serving plate, do your best to place all three ingredients in equal spreads, as if to form 3 slices of pie or a pie cut into 3. The cherry tomatoes, onions, and chankleesh cheese (1/2) should almost equal each other. Alternatively toss all ingredients gently.
4. Sprinkle two Tbsp of chiffonade of parsley on top to decorate. You should take from the eggplant tartare as enough was provided for both.
5. Drizzle approximately a quarter cup of olive oil, add more as desired.
6. When ready to eat, mix all ingredients together.



## FATTOUSH

This salad is the quintessential garden salad in Lebanon. The combination of herbs and lettuces with the toasted pita, come together into a colorful bouquet. Some people serve it with vinegar others with lemon and some add garlic as well. Ours has no garlic and is made with Lemon Sumac Pomegranate Vinaigrette.

1. Place the pita chips on a sheet tray and toast in the oven or toaster oven at 350°f for 1-2 minutes. Reserve for later use. While they are already toasted, they might lose crunchiness due to refrigeration. (6/6)
2. Chop the romaine lettuce hearts down the center into one inch bands. (5/6)
3. Slice approximately 4-5 cherry tomatoes into halves.
4. Slice your cucumbers into halves lengthwise, then cut into 1/4 inch slices. (2/6)
5. Slice your radishes into thin quarter sized circles. (3/6)
6. Combine all the ingredients above and the mixed greens (1/6) into a bowl. Add the dressing (6/6) and toss gently until everything is coated, then sprinkle with one Tbsp of sumac.
7. Variations: Add garlic or vinegar to the dressing.



## Batenjan Bil Zeit (eggplant moussaka)

This is one of my most favorite ways of preparing eggplant. This eggplant and tomato stew is called Batenjan bil Zeit, or eggplant in olive oil. In Lebanon, many vegetables are stewed with tomatoes, onions, garlic, and seasoned with Lebanese spices. Normally the



eggplant is fried and then baked with all other ingredients. To keep it healthy and light, at ilili we roast the eggplants in the oven therefore reducing the

amount of fat in the dish and creating a lighter version of it.

Place your eggplant in a microwavable dish, or in sauce pot if you do not want to use a Microwave, heat until warm to the touch. You want it to be at 100-120°F. You can garnish it with scallions, or a julienne of radish, or sprinkle some parsley on top. Went eating, do not hesitate mixing the eggplant moussaka with the lamb together they form a beautiful bite.

## PITA BREAD

Lebanese Pita bread is usually paper thin. The bread is supposed to be an accompaniment to the bite and not a main ingredient.

In Lebanon and the region, pita bread is basically used as a utensil.

You are to spread the bread apart and tear out little triangles to scoop up hummus and other menu items with it. Alternatively, think of it as a tortilla in which you are wrapping a selection of the menu items to create a delicious mini sandwich.

Pita bread should always be kept in a sealed bag so it does not dry up.

You may want to microwave it for 5-10 seconds, but not more should you wish it lukewarm.

## BAKLAVA

1. By now the Baklava is at room temperature(1/2)
2. Place it on plate and sprinkle pistachio as a garnish(2/2)



# ALLERGY SHEET

MENU ITEM	ALRG SESAME	ALRG NUTS	ALRG GARLIC	ONION	ALRG DAIRY	TREENUT	SHELL- FISH	ALRG GLUTEN	VEGETAR- IAN
PITA BREAD								X	X
HUMMUS	X								X
EGGPLANT MOUSSAKA			X	X					X
FATTOUSH DRESSING						X			V
FATTOUSH PITA CHIPS						X			V
CHANKLEESH	X	O		O	X			X	X
LEBANESE DIRTY RICE				X				X	
BRAISED LAMB			X	X	X				
YOGURT CUCUMBER			X		X				X
ASSORTED PICKLES			X	O					X
HARISSA			X						X
MIXED BAKLAVA		X			X	X		X	

- Blank signifies no allergy
- X Signifies cannot be removed or fits the category
- O Signifies can be removed/avoided
- V Signifies vegetarian

## Ready to Serve the Meal

1. Your Hummus, Moussaka, Chankleesh and Fattoush are now ready and placed at the center of the table.
2. Your Lamb Shank platter is ready to be served; the Sauce, Yogurt Cucumber and Harissa are in their respective vessels with spoons on the side.
3. Your pita bread should remain in bags until the last minute. By now it should be at room temperature; each guest gets approximately one to two pitas.

Your ilili Braised Lamb feast is now ready!

Bon Appetit :)

## YUMMY TIPS

- Eating this meal should bring out the inner chef in you and your guests.
- Eat Hummus, Fattoush, and Chankleesh first to better digest the food.
- Do not hesitate to mix hummus with harissa, or lamb with moussaka, always chase the lamb, rice and sauce with the yogurt.

Thank you for inviting us to your table, we are truly grateful. Please take the time to tag us on Instagram for freebies in the future. QR codes are provided for your convenience on the next page.

We would love to hear from you, please email us at [foodboxes@ililirestaurants.com](mailto:foodboxes@ililirestaurants.com) with any comments, discoveries or suggestions.

Thank You!

## SOCIAL MEDIA & QR CODES



## OUR CURRENT OFFERINGS ON BALDOR



ROASTED CHICKEN KIT \$140/\$35pp



MIXED GRILL KIT \$180/\$45pp



BRAISED LAMB KIT \$160/\$40pp



VEGETARIAN KIT \$90/\$22PP



BAKED KIT \$70/6 ITEMS, 1/2 DOZ

## NOTES

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