

Orzo with Sausage, Peppers and Tomatoes

Ingredients:

1 red bell pepper

1 orange bell pepper

2 cups orzo

1 gallon water

1 tablespoon kosher salt

2 tablespoons olive oil

7 ounces (2 links) mild Italian turkey sausage, casings removed

1 clove garlic, minced

2 plum tomatoes, chopped

1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes, optional

2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsely

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

½ cup grated parmesan cheese

Directions:

Using tongs, place the bell peppers over a gas flame. Cook, turning occasionally, until the skins are charred on all sides, about 5 minutes to 6 minutes. (Alternatively, place the peppers on a baking sheet and broil for 5 to 8 minutes, until charred.) Place the charred peppers in a medium bowl. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and allow the peppers to steam for 20 minutes. Under running water, peel away the charred skin from the peppers. Pat the peppers dry with paper towels. Remove the stem and seeds from the peppers and cut into ¼-inch thick slices. Set aside.

In a large saucepan, bring the water to a boil over high heat and add the kosher salt. Add the pasta and cook until tender, but still firm to the bite, stirring occasionally, about 8 to 10 minutes.

While the pasta is cooking: In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add the turkey sausage and sauté until cooked through, about 4 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute. Add the bell peppers, tomatoes, and red pepper flakes, if using, and cook until heated through, about 2 minutes.

Drain the pasta, reserving about ½ cup of the cooking liquid, and transfer to a large serving bowl. Add the sausage mixture, 1 tablespoon of the parsley, and season with salt and pepper to taste. Toss well to combine all ingredients, adding reserved cooking liquid, if needed, to loosen the pasta. Top with the parmesan and sprinkle with remaining parsley. Serve.