

# WHITE CHEDDAR & RANCH CHICKEN PENNE

with Caramelized & Crispy Onion



PREP: 10 MIN COOK: 40 MIN CALORIES: 950

22



#### JUST ADD WATER

Our test kitchen's secret to luxurious, silky sauce without any added cream? Pasta cooking water! The starch that the pasta releases while cooking helps emulsify sauce (aka make it nice and smooth).

## **BUST OUT**

- Large pot
- Medium bowl
- 2 Large pans
- Slotted spoon
- Paper towels
- Aluminum foil
- Strainer
- Whisk
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- Cooking oil (1 tsp + more for frying)
- Butter (1 TBSP | 2 TBSP)
  Contains: Milk

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\*Chicken is fully cooked when internal temperature reaches 165°.



• Bring a large pot of **salted water** to a boil.

· Halve, peel, and thinly slice onion.

### 4 COOK PASTA

**1 PREP** 

- Once water is boiling, add penne to pot. Cook, stirring occasionally, until al dente, 9-11 minutes.
- Reserve 1 cup pasta cooking water (2 cups for 4 servings), then drain.



#### **2 FRY ONION**

- In a medium bowl, toss half the onion with half the flour (you'll use the rest in step 5). Season with a pinch of salt and pepper.
- Heat a ¼-inch layer of oil in a large, heavy-bottomed pan over mediumlow heat. Once oil is hot enough that a pinch of flour sizzles when added to the pan, add floured onion. Cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, 7-9 minutes.
- Using a slotted spoon, transfer crispy onion to a paper-towel-lined plate.



### **5 MAKE SAUCE**

- Heat 1 TBSP butter (2 TBSP for 4 servings) in pan used for chicken over medium heat. Add remaining onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown and softened, 6-9 minutes. Add a few splashes of plain water and cook until onion is caramelized and liquid has evaporated, 1-2 minutes more.
- Add remaining flour and cook, stirring constantly, until flour is golden,
  30-60 seconds. Slowly whisk in 34 cup reserved pasta cooking water (1¼ cups for 4) and stock concentrate; cook until thickened, 2-3 minutes more.
- Remove from heat; stir in cheddar and ranch dressing until melted and combined.



### **3 COOK CHICKEN**

- Pat chicken\* dry with paper towels and season all over with half the Ranch Spice (all for 4 servings), salt, and pepper. Set aside.
- While onion cooks, heat a drizzle of oil in a second large pan over mediumhigh heat. Add chicken and cook until browned and cooked through, 3-5 minutes per side. TIP: If chicken begins to brown too quickly, lower heat to medium and cover pan.
- Turn off heat; transfer to a cutting board and tent with foil to keep warm. Wipe out pan.



#### **6 FINISH & SERVE**

- Add drained penne to pan with sauce and toss to coat. If needed, stir in more reserved pasta cooking water a splash at a time until pasta is coated in a creamy sauce. Taste and season with salt and pepper.
- Slice chicken crosswise.
- Divide **pasta** between bowls. Top with chicken and sprinkle with **crispy onion**. Serve.