From the St. Mary's Woods Kitchen

St. Mary's Woods' Signature She Crab Soup

Ingredients:

5 tablespoons butter 5 tablespoons all-purpose flour 1 small white onion, grated 1 stalk celery, grated 2 cloves garlic, minced salt and pepper to taste 2 quarts half-and-half cream 1 pint heavy cream 1 cup chicken broth 1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill 1 pound lump crabmeat 1/2 pound crab roe 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sherry wine

Directions:

Melt butter in a large stockpot over medium heat. Stir in flour to make a smooth paste, and cook for about 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Mix in the onion, celery, and garlic; season with salt and pepper. Continue to cook and stir for about 4 minutes.

Gradually whisk in the half and half cream so that no lumps form. Stir in chicken broth and heavy cream. Bring to a simmer, and pour in the sherry. Season with dill, Worcestershire sauce and hot sauce. Cover, and simmer for about 30 minutes, until soup has reduced by ¹/₃. Add all of the crab roe and ³/₄ of the lump crab meat, and simmer for another 10 minutes.

Ladle soup into bowls, and top off a garnish of crab meat and fresh chopped chives.