Chipotle Southwest Chicken Salad

Yield: 4 petite servings

Salad Ingredients:

- 1-2 chicken breasts (if this is a meal, use 2) chipotle marinade (recipe follows) 1/2 cup chopped roasted corn (about 1 ear) 1/2 cup orange bell pepper, julienned 1/4 red onion (wedge), thinly sliced 2 tablespoons cilantro, chopped 1/2 can black beans, drained and rinsed 4-5 cherry tomatoes 1/2 avocado, thinly sliced 1 head romaine lettuce, chopped 4 – 5 wedges of lime chipotle-ranch dressing (recipe follows) **Chipotle Marinade Ingredients:** 2 tablespoons orange juice 1 tablespoon lime juice, freshly squeezed 2 tablespoons lemon juice, freshly squeezed 1 teaspoon olive oil 2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped 1/2 chipotle chile, in adobo sauce, chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon groun 1 teaspoon salt

2 tablespoons roughly chopped fresh cilantro leaves

Chipotle-Ranch Dressing:

Using a small food processor, puree 1/2 **cucumber** (peeled, halved lengthwise and seeded, then grated on the large holes of a box grater), 1 tablespoon finely chopped **shallot**, 2 tablespoons **mayonnaise**, 2 tablespoons **buttermilk**, 1/4 cup **sour cream**, 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed **lemon juice**, 1 teaspoon **Kosher salt**, handful of finely chopped **cilantro** leaves, and 1/2 teaspoon finely chopped **chipotle**.



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- **Step 1: Prepare the chicken:** Put all marinade ingredients into a plastic bag.
- **Step 2:** Add the chicken to the bag and allow it to marinate overnight (if possible) in the refrigerator.
- **Step 3:** Grill the chicken until the internal temperature reaches 165° F. Let chicken cool completely and cut it into cubes.
- **Step 4: Prepare the vegetables:** julienne the bell pepper, cut the kernels off the cob of roasted corn, thinly slice wedge of red onion, chop approximately 1/2 bunch of cilantro finely, quarter the cherry tomatoes, chop the romaine lettuce into 1/2 inch strips. Place these vegetables into a large mixing bowl (reserve some cilantro for garnish).
- **Step 5:** Add rinsed and drained black beans to the bowl and about 1/3 cup dressing.
- **Step 6:** Toss the salad and neatly arrange in a large platter. Top with cut chicken. Drizzle dressing over the cut chicken.
- **Step 7:** Garnish the salad with cut avocado, lime wedges and chopped cilantro and serve immediately.