



G Calories: 980

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# **PENNE RUSTICA WITH A KICK**

tossed with Asparagus & topped with Crispy Panko



PREP: 10 MIN COOK: 25 MIN CALORIES: 790



### HELLO

#### CRISPY PANKO ALMONDS

This butter-toasted topping adds a delicious crunch.

#### **SNAP TO IT**

Trimming asparagus is a snap–literally. Hold the spears near the bottom ends and bend until they break.

### **BUST OUT**

- Large potStrainer
- Large pan (or 2 large pans) 😏 😚
- Zester
- Small bowl
- Paper towels 😉 😂
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- Olive oil (3 tsp | 5 tsp)
- Cooking oil (**1 tsp | 1 tsp**) 😉 🚱
- Butter (2 TBSP | 3 TBSP)
  Contains: Milk

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



#### 1 COOK PASTA

- Bring a large pot of **salted water** to a boil.
- Once boiling, add **penne** to pot. Cook, stirring occasionally, until al dente, 9-11 minutes.
- Reserve ½ cup pasta cooking water (1 cup for 4 servings), then drain.



#### 2 PREP & MAKE TOPPING

- Meanwhile, wash and dry produce.
- Zest and quarter **lemon**. Trim and discard woody bottom ends from **asparagus**; cut stalks crosswise into 1-inch-long pieces. Dice **tomato**. Trim and thinly slice **scallions**, separating whites from greens.
- Melt **1 TBSP plain butter** in a large pan over medium-high heat. Add **panko** and **almonds**; season with **salt** and **pepper**. Cook, stirring, until golden brown, 3-4 minutes.
- Turn off heat. Stir in a **pinch of lemon** zest and a pinch of chili flakes. Transfer to a small bowl.



#### **3 COOK VEGGIES**

- Heat a **drizzle of olive oil** in same pan over medium-high heat. Add **asparagus** and cook, stirring often, until bright green and tender, 2-4 minutes.
- Add **tomato** and cook, stirring, until slightly softened, 1-2 minutes. Season with **salt** and **pepper**.
- While veggies cook, pat chicken\*
- or organic chicken\* dry with paper towels; season with salt and pepper. Heat a drizzle of oil in a second large, preferably nonstick, pan over medium-high heat. Add chicken; cook until cooked through, 3-5 minutes per side. Transfer to a cutting board to rest.



#### 4 TOSS PASTA

 Add drained penne, garlic herb butter, cream cheese, half the Parmesan (save the rest for serving), and ½ cup reserved pasta cooking water (½ cup for 4 servings) to pan with veggies; stir until thoroughly combined. Season with salt and pepper.



## **5 FINISH PASTA**

- Add scallion whites, remaining lemon zest, 1 TBSP plain butter (2 TBSP for 4 servings), and as many remaining chili flakes as you like to pan with pasta. Cook, stirring, until everything is thoroughly coated in sauce, 1-2 minutes.
   TIP: If needed, stir in more reserved pasta cooking water a splash at a time.
- Turn off heat; stir in a **squeeze of lemon juice** to taste. Taste and season with **salt** and **pepper**.



#### 6 SERVE

- Divide pasta between bowls. Sprinkle with panko mixture and remaining Parmesan. Add a drizzle of olive oil over bowls. Garnish with scallion greens and serve with remaining lemon wedges on the side.
- Slice chicken or organic chicken
  crosswise; serve atop pasta.