

# ★ U.K. ★ BBQ ★ Week ★



Direct grill



Final Temp  
63°C/145°F



1 hr



£25



Serves 4

## INGREDIENTS

8 red mullet  
zest and juice of 8 oranges  
zest and juice of 2 limes  
1 lemongrass stem, bruised and  
chopped finely  
½ tsp fennel seeds  
1 bunch baby carrots, peeled and finely  
sliced  
3 baby fennel bulbs, outer layers  
peeled and finely sliced  
sea salt  
4 spring onions (scallions), finely  
chopped  
100ml (3½ fl oz) olive oil, plus extra to  
drizzle  
½ bunch fennel fronds, picked  
1 head fennel flowers



Recipe kindly supplied by  
Lennox Hastie from *Finding  
Fire* (Hardie Grant, £30)

Photography © Nikki To

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# RECIPE

## *Red Mullet Escabeche*



1. The grill should be hot around 250°C+ (480°F)
2. Scale and gut the fish, and remove the gills. Rinse quickly and dry well.
3. Butterfly the fish. Use a sharp knife to make an incision along the skin on the back of the fish to one side of the dorsal fin. Following this line, run the knife horizontally from the head to the tail, going halfway to the backbone. Move the knife through to the underside of the fish, then run the knife along the whole fillet. Turn the fish over and repeat on the other side.
4. With a pair of scissors, carefully cut the backbone free behind the head and in front of the tail. This will enable you to easily remove the backbone while retaining the head and tail, which hold the fish together during grilling.
5. Trim the belly. Locate the bones running along the middle of the top half of the fillet and carefully remove them using tweezers.
6. Prepare the escabeche vegetables. In a small saucepan, combine the zest and juice of the oranges and limes, the lemongrass and the fennel seeds. Bring to the boil and simmer until reduced to approximately 200 ml (7 fl oz) of liquid. Pass through a fine-mesh sieve and, while warm, pour over the sliced carrots and fennel. Leave for 40 minutes to macerate.
7. Season the flesh of the fish with sea salt, and grill in an enclosed grill rack over intense embers for 2 minutes, skin side down, until beautifully caramelised.
8. Meanwhile, drain the carrot and fennel (reserving the liquid) and grill for 2 minutes with the spring onions until lightly charred. Season, drizzle with olive oil and garnish with half of the fresh fennel fronds.
9. Transfer the fish to a clean tray, add the reserved escabeche liquid and allow to rest for 1 minute, during which time the acidity will finish cooking the fish.
10. Gently heat the olive oil in a small saucepan and pour it over the red mullet. Strain all the liquid back into the saucepan, whisking continuously and allowing a light emulsion to form.
11. Place the pickled and grilled vegetables on a plate, top with the fish and pour the emulsion over. Finish with the remaining fresh fennel fronds and the flowers. Serve immediately.



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