Maltese sausage, pumpkin & ricotta stuffed pasta shells



INGREDIENTS

- 200g pasta shells, partly cooked
 2 Maltese sausages, skin removed
 1 small onion, finely chopped
 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
 1 tbsp olive oil
 1 tbsp chopped fresh thyme or sage
 100g pumpkin, finely diced
- 500g Hanini ricotta
 1 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
 Salt and pepper to taste
 1 egg, beaten
 2 tbsp grated Parmesan plus extra
 500-600g ready-made tomato sauce
 2 tbsp breadcrumbs

METHOD

- **1** Start by heating the oil and frying the sausage meat to brown.
- **2** Add in the onion, garlic, herbs and pumpkin and continue to cook for 5-6 minutes.
- **3** In a bowl, mix together the ricotta, grated Parmesan, beaten egg , parsley and season well with salt and pepper.
- **4** Mix in the cooked sausage and pumpkin mixture. Pour the readymade tomato sauce into the base of a large round oven dish.
- 5 Fill the partly cooked pasta shells with the filling and place into the dish on top of the sauce.
- 6 Finish off with extra grated cheese, breadcrumbs and a good drizzle of olive oil.
- **7** Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes at 200°C till golden brown.