

CRISPY QUINOA SALAD

This is another crowd pleaser. The flavours are quite complex, and the addition of honey might seem strange, but somehow it just works.

SERVES 4

1 cup uncooked quinoa
2 Tbsp olive oil
2 tsp salt
120g avocado, cut into
bite-size chunks
40g drained kidney beans
50g grilled corn kernels
1/4 cup pico de gallo (page 14)
fresh coriander for garnishing

OUINOA SALAD DRESSING

juice of 2 large lemons
2 Tbsp honey
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 Tbsp chopped fresh coriander
2 tsp shichimi togarashi
(Japanese seven spice)

1/4 cup cold water
salt to taste

- 1 Place a pot of salted water over medium heat, add the quinoa and bring to a simmer. Cook for 15–20 minutes until tender, then carefully drain and allow to cool slightly in the pot.
- **2** Preheat the oven to 190°C and line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.
- 3 Add the olive oil and salt to the pot and run your fingers through the quinoa to coat it.
- **4** Evenly spread the quinoa in a single layer on the lined baking tray to avoid clumping.
- **5** Bake for 35 minutes, mixing every 10 minutes, until the quinoa is golden brown and crispy.
- **6** Place the avocado, kidney beans, grilled corn and pico de gallo into a salad bowl.
- **7** Combine all the ingredients for the quinoa salad dressing in a separate bowl, whisking well.
- **8** Pour 2 Tbsp of the dressing over the salad and mix gently so as not to squash the avocado. Check and adjust seasoning, if necessary.
- 9 Sprinkle 1 Tbsp of the crispy quinoa over the top, but do not mix it in, and garnish with fresh coriander.

