Salt and Serenity

Greek Farro Salad

Serves 4

For Salad:

1 cup uncooked farro

1/2 small red onion

1 clove garlic

small handful of fresh parsley, leaves and stems

1/4 teaspoon Kosher salt

1/4 cup Kalamata olives, pitted and halved

4 small Lebanese or Israeli cucumbers, (or 1 English cucumber) diced into ½ inch cubes

3 cups grape tomatoes, (mixed colours if you can find them), cut into quarters

6 small radishes, thinly sliced

2 Belgian endives, sliced

1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley

1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh basil

1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese

Kosher Salt and Freshly ground pepper, to taste

For pickled onions:

1/4 cup red wine vinegar

1/4 cup water

1 tablespoon kosher salt

1 1/2 teaspoons sugar

½ small red onion, thinly sliced

For Dressing:

½ cup olive oil

2 tablespoons water

1 teaspoon dried oregano

½ teaspoon fresh oregano

¼ teaspoon citric acid

¼ cup feta brine

pinch freshly ground black pepper

- 1. Add the farro, one onion half, garlic, handful of parsley and salt along with 1 1/2 cups water to a medium sized pot. Bring to a boil, then cover, reduce to a simmer, and cook for 10 minutes. Turn off burner and let sit, covered, for 5 more minutes. Discard the onion, garlic and large pieces of parsley. Spread out on a rimmed sheet pan and let cool completely.
- 2. While farro is cooking, pickle red onions. Combine red wine vinegar, water, salt and sugar in a bowl and add thinly sliced red onion. Mix well. Set aside.
- 3. Make dressing; combine all ingredients in blender on high speed until smooth. Set aside.
- 4. In a large bowl add cooled farro, olives, cucumber, tomatoes, radishes, Belgian endive, chopped parsley and basil. Drain pickled onions, discarding liquid, and add to vegetables in the bowl. Add a few tablespoons of dressing and toss to combine.
- 5. Top with crumbled feta and serve.

Notes:

- If you prefer, arrange all the ingredients separately on a platter for a composed salad and drizzle with dressing.
- Farro can be cooked one day ahead of time. After cooling, cover and refrigerate.
- Pickled onions can be prepared one day ahead of time. Let onions sit in pickling marinade for no longer than an hour, then drain, cover and refrigerate.
- Dressing can be made a day ahead and covered and refrigerated.