Chef John's Patatas Bravas

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INGREDIENTS:

Dipping Sauce:

- 1 clove garlic, minced, or more to taste
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 pinch salt
- 8 ounces mayonnaise
- ½ ounce sherry vinegar, or more to taste
- 1 ¼ teaspoons tomato paste
- ¼ teaspoon ground chipotle peppers
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper, or more to taste

Spice Blend:

- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- ½ teaspoon ground chipotle peppers

Potatoes:

- 64 ounces cold water
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 bay leaves



- 2 pounds russet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 16 ounces vegetable oil for frying

DIRECTIONS:

- For the dipping sauce: Combine garlic, 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika, and a pinch of salt in a
 mortar and pestle or mash together in a small bowl until smooth. Then add the garlic mix to
 a food processor along with mayonnaise, sherry vinegar, tomato paste, 1/4 teaspoon
 chipotle chile powder, and cayenne pepper until combined. Cover and refrigerate the
 dipping sauce.
- Note: You may wish to serve the dipping sauce from a squeeze bottle or a small serving bowl with a spoon.
- For the spice blend: Mix 1 tablespoon salt, black pepper, 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika, and
 1/2 teaspoon chipotle chile powder together in a small bowl. Set spice blend aside.
- For the potatoes: Pour water into a large saucepan and stir 1 tablespoon salt, 1 teaspoon smoked paprika, cumin, and bay leaves into water. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, and cover; simmer for 10 minutes.
- Stir potatoes into water-paprika mixture, bring to a boil, and simmer until potatoes are tender but not fully cooked, 4 to 5 minutes. The tip of a paring knife should easily insert into the center of a potato cube.
- o Drain potatoes and transfer to a wire rack to cool completely, about 45 minutes or longer.
- Note: You can make the recipe ahead this far about 2 hours in advance. Leave the cool, dry potatoes on the wire rack and cover with a clean dish towel.
- Heat vegetable oil in a large cast iron skillet or Dutch oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
 Add cooled potato cubes and cook, stirring frequently, until golden brown, 5 to 6 minutes.
- Transfer potatoes to a baking sheet lined with paper towels to cool slightly.
- Toss in a bowl with spice blend.
- Transfer the seasoned potatoes to a serving platter and pass the dipping sauce.