



DEAR BON APPÉTIT, I'VE NEVER HAD ANYTHING LIKE THE CAULIFLOWER "SHRIMP" COCKTAIL AT **THE BLACK SHEEP** IN RICHMOND. MY WIFE CAN'T EAT SHELLFISH, SO IT'S PERFECT FOR HER.

—CALVIN RILEY, Richmond, VA

POOR MAN'S "SHRIMP" COCKTAIL

8 SERVINGS Chef Kevin Roberts transforms humble cauliflower into a dead ringer for shrimp cocktail with a brief poach in cleverly seasoned water and a dunk in cocktail sauce. "It's something my mom used to make for us," he explains. "As kids, we went to the lake a lot, and she would throw this down as a snack. It's also a great party option for vegetarians and people with shellfish allergies."

1 cup dry crab boil seasoning (such as Zatarain's or Old Bay)
¼ cup kosher salt
2 yellow onions, quartered
6 garlic cloves
3 lemons, halved crosswise
2 1-lb. heads of cauliflower, cored, trimmed into 2" florets
Cocktail sauce

INGREDIENT INFO: Crab boil seasoning is available at most supermarkets in the seafood or spice section, and at specialty foods stores.

Combine crab boil, salt, onions, garlic, and 6 quarts water in a large pot. Squeeze juice from lemons into pot and add lemon halves. Set pot over high heat and bring liquid to a boil. Cook for 10 minutes to let flavors meld. Using a slotted spoon, remove onions, garlic, and lemons from broth; discard. Return liquid to a rolling boil.

Add cauliflower; turn off heat, cover pot tightly, and let stand until cauliflower is crisp-tender, 5–10 minutes. Drain; spread out cauliflower on a rimmed baking sheet and let cool completely. **DO AHEAD:** Cauliflower can be made 1 day ahead. Cover and refrigerate.

Arrange room-temperature or chilled cauliflower on a platter with cocktail sauce for dipping.

DEAR BON APPÉTIT,

Spice cake can be heavy, so I was surprised at how light the sorghum version at **Hot and Hot Fish Club** in Birmingham, AL, was. I'd love the recipe.

—BABS FAWKES, Mulga, AL

SORGHUM SPICE CAKE

10–12 SERVINGS This easy cake swaps out molasses for lighter-flavored sorghum syrup, a Southern staple. For more on sorghum, see Prep School, page 106.

1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. (2½ sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature, divided, plus more for pan
2 cups plus ¼ cup all-purpose flour, divided, plus more for pan
1½ cups sugar, divided
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
¾ tsp. kosher salt
½ tsp. ground allspice
½ tsp. ground ginger
¼ tsp. ground nutmeg
½ cup sorghum syrup
2 large eggs
1 cup buttermilk
Rum raisin ice cream

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT: A 9"-diameter springform pan with 2½"-high sides

Preheat oven to 325°. Butter and flour springform pan. Combine ¼ cup flour, ¼ cup sugar, and 2 Tbsp. butter in a small bowl. Using your fingertips, rub together until mixture is crumbly; set topping aside. Sift remaining 2 cups flour, baking soda, and next 5 ingredients into a large bowl. Using an electric mixer at low speed, beat 1 cup butter, 1 cup sugar, and sorghum in another large bowl, occasionally scraping down sides, until smooth, 2–3 minutes. Add eggs; beat until light and fluffy, 3–4 minutes. Beat in flour mixture in 3 additions, alternating with buttermilk in 2 additions, beginning and ending with dry ingredients. Pour batter into prepared pan.

Bake cake until top looks just set, about 40 minutes.

Immediately sprinkle topping over cake; bake until a tester comes out clean when inserted into center, 25–30 minutes longer. Transfer to a wire rack and let cake cool in pan. Remove pan sides.

Cut into wedges; serve with ice cream.