

PASTA ALL'AMATRICIANA

8 SERVINGS Named for Amatrice, a town northeast of Rome, this pasta is traditionally served with a long noodle like bucatini, but we like how shorter penne captures the spicy, meaty bits of sauce inside the tube.

- 2 28-oz. cans whole peeled tomatoes
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 4 oz. guanciale (salt-cured pork jowl), finely chopped
- 4 oz. pancetta (Italian bacon), finely chopped
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- ¼ cup tomato paste
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 1 tsp. sugar (optional)
- Kosher salt, freshly ground pepper
- 1 lb. penne or other tube-shaped pasta
- Finely grated Pecorino or Parmesan

INGREDIENT INFO: Guanciale is available at specialty foods stores and online sources.

Purée tomatoes with juices in a blender; set aside. Cook onion, guanciale, pancetta, oil, red pepper flakes, and ½ cup water in a large heavy pot over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally, until water is evaporated and fat begins to render, 8–10 minutes.

Add tomato paste and cook, stirring often, until beginning to brown, about 2 minutes. Add wine and cook, stirring often, until reduced by half, 5–8 minutes.

Add reserved tomato purée and bring to a boil. Cover pan partially with a lid, reduce heat, and simmer until meat is tender and flavors are melded, 40–45 minutes. Add sugar, if using; season with salt and pepper.

When sauce is almost done, cook pasta in a large pot of boiling salted water, stirring occasionally, until al dente; drain pasta.

Add pasta to sauce and toss to coat. Serve topped with Pecorino.

DO AHEAD: Sauce can be made 4 days ahead. Let cool, then chill until cold. Cover and keep chilled.