



COOKING GUIDE

HARK GAS SMOKER

HK0521 & HK0528



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1. INTRODUCTION

Hark gas smokers can be used as an outdoor oven and a smoker, enabling low to medium temperature cooking. You can use a Hark gas smoker as a traditional smoker or, for baking and reheating. It can also be used to produce slow cooked, US style BBQ, where food is cooked gently over long periods of time using the 'Hangi' style steam cooking.

Smoke cooking requires a whole new set of cooking techniques that once mastered, will guarantee meal after meal of delicious food.

The aim of this Hark Cooking Guide is to help you become confident with smoke cooking and will cover everything from seasoning your smoker, to preparing meats, types of wood chips and pellets and a list of recommended recipes to get you started.

(also available on the Hark website - www.hark.com.au).

2. GET TO KNOW YOUR GAS SMOKER

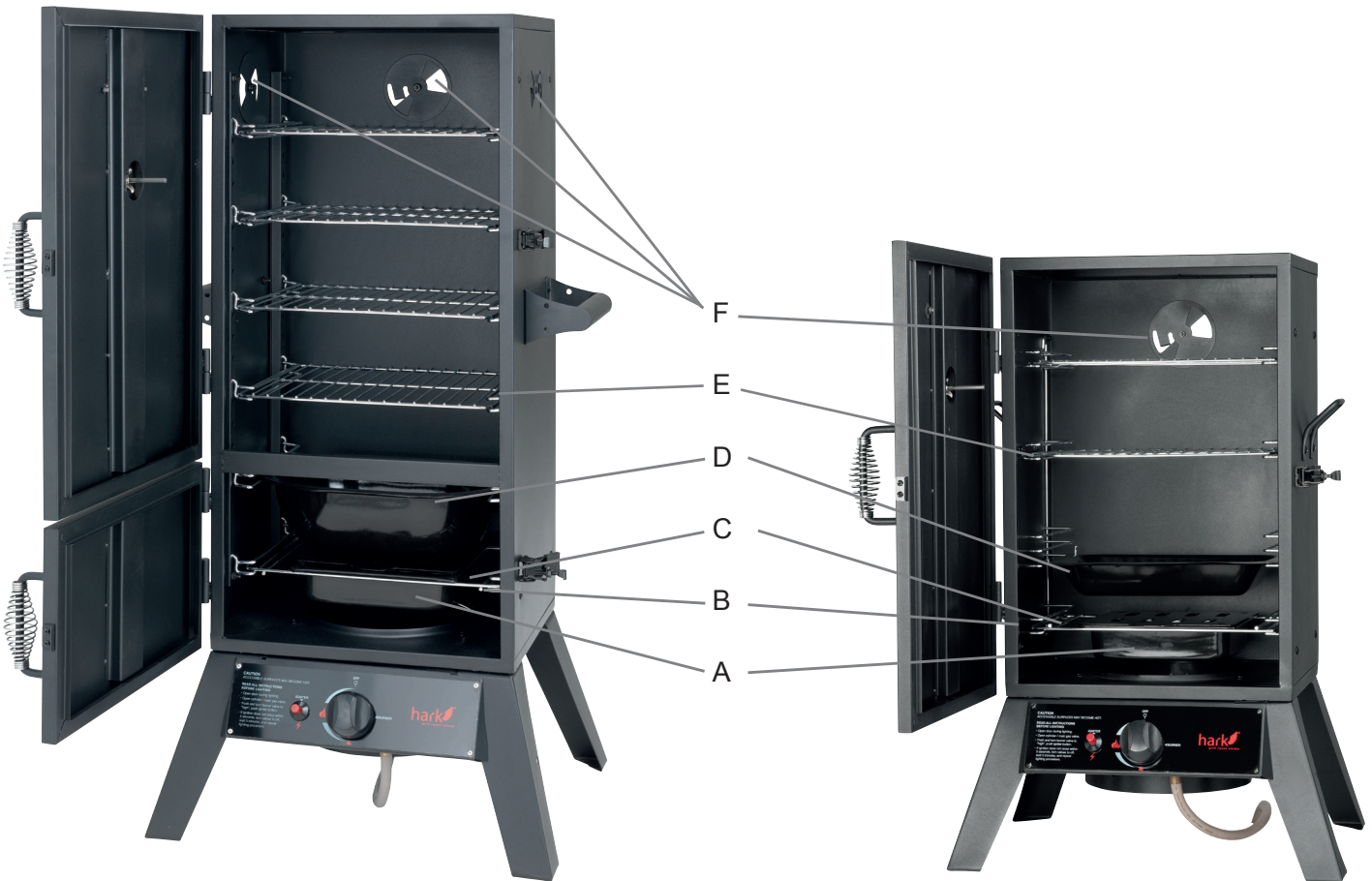


Table 1: Key components of your gas smoker

A	Wood Chip Box
B	Wood Chip Box Lid
C	Wood Chip Box Rack
D	Water Bowl Grid Track
E	Cooking Rack (Grid)
F	Damper

3. SEASONING YOUR SMOKER

Once you have carefully read and followed the assembly instructions contained in your accompanying manual, your Hark gas smoker should be seasoned prior to use. Seasoning effectively burns off any impurities and manufacturing oils that occur during the production process. It further protects the smoker by coating the cooking surfaces with a thin patina of smoke residue.

The following steps are a guide to seasoning a Hark gas smoker:

- Lightly spray the shelves and inside walls with canola oil.
- Fill the wood chip box with wood chips, then light the smoker and set the gas control to MEDIUM.
- DO NOT USE THE WATER BOWL.
- Once your Hark gas smoker fills up with smoke, leave it to season” for approximately 30 minutes.
- Your Hark gas smoker is now seasoned and ready to use!

Note: It's good practice to re-season your gas smoker at regular intervals and once a year at the very least.

4. SMOKING INTRODUCTION

Smoking food is an art form. There is much to learn about the different processes and equipment available today. Cold smoking and hot smoking are two different ways to smoke food and there really isn't one singular cooking or smoking device that does both.

4.1 Cold Smoking

Cold smoking takes place at temperatures around 20°C or lower and involves smoking partially cured foods with very little heat. This is a popular smoking method for foods such as nuts, fish, jerky and foods that are dried or cured prior to smoking. It is important to remember that cold smoking is not a cooking process and that cold smoked foods are not actually 'cooked'. Instead they are cured and preserved. This can allow foods to be edible for hours, days, weeks or months after smoking. It is always advisable to employ safe food practices when cold smoking and ensure that you follow recipe instructions very carefully.

Your Hark gas smoker is not ideally suited to cold smoking.

4.2 Hot Smoking

Hot smoking involves cooking at low temperatures over long periods of time (anywhere from 7-24 hours). Hot smoking takes place when cooking food with temperatures greater than what is considered to be normal ambient temperatures.

Typically, hot smoking is carried out in temperatures between 70-180°C. It is important to note that hot smoking alone does not act to preserve food. Anything hot smoked should generally be stored in a refrigerator.

Electric and gas smokers tend to burn the source of smoke ie wood chips or pellets, from the outset. They fill the chamber with high density smoke and heat the food within this smoke-heavy cooking chamber. This is what we mean by hot smoking. The process works well and produces more of a 'smoked' taste than a barbequed one. Think smoked chicken vs barbequed chicken, there's a subtle difference.

Your Hark gas smoker is suited to hot smoking.

Low and Slow

US style barbequing with meats such as pork shoulder (pulled pork), ribs and briskets are examples of hot smoking. These classic smoked BBQ meats are generally smoked at temperatures between 110-120°C and will soften greatly and increase in flavour if you hold them 'at temperature' for several hours inside the cooking chamber.

Temperature control is essential to smoking successfully. Practice keeping your smoker at a stable temperature in the smoking "zone" for hours at a time. Don't be tempted to open the smoker door, as this lets out heat and air in and may take some 15 minutes or more to regain the original temperature.

4.3 Smoke Quantity & Quality

Too much smoke or the wrong type of smoke will make food bitter. The bitter taste is attributed to creosote produced from 'white smoke', or, from the soot deposited from 'black smoke'. Good hot smoking means clean smoke travels over food continuously from the wood chip box and into the cooking chamber, picking up faint smoke on the way.

4.4 Smoke Ring

A smoke ring is the result of nitrates in the smoke “curing” the outer layer of meat, turning it pink (the same way cured ham is pink but roast pork is grey). Whilst it’s an attractive look, a smoke ring is not an integral part of smoking and isn’t a criteria used by judges in US BBQ competitions.

What’s more, you can “cheat” and obtain this look by adding nitrate-curing salt to the surface of the meat via a rub or brine. But more often than not, it will occur naturally in the normal smoking process.

It is important to understand that when hot smoking, meat won’t take on any more smoke once the internal temperature hits 65°C. However if a glaze or marinade is added to the meat towards the end of the cooking process, the meat will still absorb the smoke flavour.

5. MEAT PREPARATION

There are a number of methods that can be employed to tenderise, moisten and flavour your meat. These include brining, curing, marinating and rubs.

5.1 Brine Curing

Brining foods in a mixture of salt and water is a form of curing and is one of the simplest techniques to prepare foods for smoking.

The brining of meats is an age-old process used for preserving foods. Heavy concentrations of salt helped preserve meats for long ocean voyages and military campaigns before the arrival of refrigeration.

Brining today uses smaller quantities of salt, mixed with other spices and herbs, and is used to flavour and tenderise meat. The most basic brining mixture incorporates a minimum of 1 tablespoon of salt to every 1 litre of water. We recommend salt flakes as they are easier to dissolve, and the use of non iodised salt where possible. A good rule of thumb for achieving an effective brine cure is that it should contain enough salt in the mixture to allow a raw egg to float. This equates to 20% of the salt in the liquid. Always store brine meat in a refrigerator.

In terms of the quantity of brine required, you will need enough brine to completely submerge the meat. Some foods may need to be weighed down to stay submerged. Meat is best brined for approximately 4 hours per kilogram. Depending on the size of meat you wish to brine, it can take up to 24 hours or more. If you are brining whole poultry you will need to add 6 to 12 hours between brining and cooking. It is best to sit the poultry in the refrigerator for several hours after you remove it from the brine so that the skin can dry before cooking.

Also, when brining poultry or pork in a low salt brine it is recommended that you change the brining liquid every 24 hours. Beef and lamb however can be submerged in the same brine for up to 3 days. Once you have finished brining lightly rinse the cut of meat to remove any excess salt before cooking. Do not reuse the brine.

Chris' Basic Brine Recipe

1 litre of water
1 tblsp of salt

Directions:

Flavour the mixture with anything you like ie. crushed garlic, lemon, peppercorns, herbs, a teaspoon of good curry paste, brown sugar, soy sauce or ginger.

Soak the meat in the brine and place in the refrigerator overnight. Ensure that the meat is fully submerged in the brine.

Note that there is an increasing push to include iodised salt in our cooking. Whilst this is a good initiative, iodised salt is not recommended for use in brining.

5.2 Salt and Sugar Curing

Salt and sugar curing is an age-old technique that involves removing all the available moisture from the food in order to prevent it from spoiling. Once foods are cured this way, they are generally hung up in the open air or left packed in salt or sugar.

When the food is required for consumption, it is usually reconstituted with a liquid such as water.

Salt and sugar curing can be enhanced with the addition of pepper, herbs or honey for extra flavour.

5.3 Marinades

Marinades are liquids or pastes comprising a mixture of spice or herbs, used to flavour and tenderise meat over generous periods of time.

Marinades are used to increase the flavour of foods. However a common problem with them is that they often contain far too much sugar for close-contact cooking such as on barbeques or in fry pans. Marinades however, are perfect for smoking as the temperatures used in this cooking environment aren't high enough to burn the sugars.

Chris' Basic Marinade Recipe

1 cup white wine
1 cup grape seed oil
Juice from one lemon
3 crushed cloves of garlic
3 or 4 stems of rosemary
1 tsp of crushed pepper

Directions:

Combine all ingredients in a ceramic or glass dish.

Add the meat and thoroughly cover it with the marinade before refrigerating overnight.

5.4 Dry Rubs

Dry rubs are generally comprised of a mixture of dry herb and spices combined with salt and sugar. These rubs help dry the food by extracting moisture from the meat. When used properly, dry rubs can function like a combination of brining and salt or sugar curing. Generally rubs are applied on the outside of the meat the day before and allowed to refrigerate overnight.

If smoking for long periods, it is advisable to apply the dry rub in small batches throughout the cooking process. Or as an alternative, add the dry rub towards the end of the smoking process in order to ensure the spice flavours are at their peak.

Note: wet rubs are essentially dry rubs combined with a wetting agent, such as olive oil, beer, wine or fruit juice.

Chris' Basic Rub Recipe

1 tblsp cumin powder
1 tblsp smoked paprika
1 tsp black pepper powder

Directions:

Rub the meat with a clove of garlic, cover with the rub mixture. Leave in a plastic bag or in a glass or ceramic bowl in the fridge overnight.

6. WOOD FLAVOURING

Wood chips or wood pellets are considered to be premium smoke generating materials and greatly impact the quality of the foods you have chosen to smoke.

6.1 Wood Chips

Wood chips are small pieces of suitable wood that can be used during the cooking process to produce flavoured smoke. For use in a Hark gas smoker, they need to be small pieces. Large chunks of wood aren't suitable for this type of smoking.

Flavoured wood provide a subtle flavour to your food from the smoke that is generated. Typically the wood will come from a fruit tree or from Mesquite, banksia and sheoak. Generally fruit and nut trees produce a sweeter, milder smoke, which complements white and pink meats. Hardwoods like wattle, box, gum and mesquite produce more robust smoke and are more suited to redder meats. Imported timbers like hickory, mesquite and beech (favoured by European smallgoods makers) are also available.

The following table provides a guide to the different types of flavoured woods available today.

Table 2: Flavoured Wood Types

WOOD FLAVOUR	DESCRIPTION	FOODS
Black Wattle Grey Box Red Gum Jarrah	Strong, pungent, smoky bacon flavour Similar to Hickory	Great for most meat smoking Not as ideal for seafood and vegetables
Ironbark Melaleuka	Medium smoke, similar to Hickory but not as strong	Great for most smoking, including seafood
Beech (Imported)	Strong earthy flavour	Good for most meats, particularly beef. Also great with vegetables
Beech (Imported)	Very mid. A light, sweet flavour	Pork, ham, poultry, cheese, game birds
Sheoak	Mild smoke, slightly sweet, preferred for fish	Good with red meat, pork, fish
Apple	Slightly sweet but denser, fruity smoke flavour	Beef, poultry, game birds, pork (particularly ham)
Cherry, Peach and other stonefruit	Slightly sweet, fruity smoke flavour	Good with all meats
Banksia (the Banksia cone is particularly good)	Very delicate light taste with a hint of sweetness	Good with fish, pork, poultry and light-meat game birds
Grapevine	Aromatic, similar to fruit woods	Good with all meats
Macadamia	Nutty and sweet smoke flavour Light and subtle smoke	Good with all meats
Myrtle Tasmanian Oak	Strong smoke, but not bitter	Good with everything

As a general rule, the wood of any plant which bears an edible fruit is usable. For example grape, vine cuttings and olive tree wood. Experiment with different types and quantities of wood chips and remember that you can mix different types of wood chips together.

NEVER USE THE FOLLOWING WOOD TYPES IN YOUR SMOKER - PINEWOODS, TEA TREE AND TREATED, PAINTED OR STAINED WOODS. THESE WOODS PRODUCE TOXIC FUMES OR HIGH HEAT THAT WILL ADVERSLEY AFFECT THE FLAVOUR OF THE FOOD YOU ARE COOKING!

6.2 Wood Pellets

Smoking pellets can also be used to enhance the smoking process and are increasingly becoming more popular and available in Australia. Pellets are formed from compressed, kiln-dried sawdust and come from many of the same woods that wood chips are sourced from. Hark offers a range of pellets - Apple, Pecan and Hickory.

6.3 Other Smoking Materials

Other materials than can be used in the smoking process, include herbs, spices, rice, tea, sea weed and nut shells. The resulting flavours can range from subtle or to strong and pungent. This is where it can be beneficial to experiment with adding new ingredients and to keep notes for future reference.

6.4 Recommended Quantities

The biggest “rookie” mistake is to over smoke your food. Less is more when it comes to adding wood chips and pellets. Most smoke and therefore flavour is absorbed in the first 2 hours of smoking. After that, you may not need to replenish the pellets or chips.

Wood chips – 1 cup at a time

Wood pellets – up to 2 cups.

7. SMOKE COOKING

Ensure that you have followed the assembly instructions in your Hark gas smoker Owner's Manual, particularly section D (The Gas System), to ensure that your gas bottle and smoker are safe to use.

7.1 Recommended Equipment

Before commencing cooking with the Hark gas smoker, it pays to ensure you have all the necessary tools and utensils required to achieve the best cooking results.

Thermometers

Prior to using your smoker, we recommend you invest in two types of thermometers. The first thermometer can be used for checking the inside temperature of your smoker box. There are several digital oven thermometers that are available in the marketplace, some of which are remote. The second thermometer is used to check the internal temperature of the meat being smoked. Here you can use products such as the Hark Remote Wireless Digital Thermometer or a Hark Stainless Steel Meat Thermometer to periodically check the internal temperature of the meat.

Warning: Never wash a temperature probe, never immerse in water. Always wipe clean with a damp cloth or sanitiser wipe.

Long Handle Tongs

A pair of long handled BBQ tongs for smaller pieces of meat or a meat hook for larger cuts is recommended to safely handle meat during the cooking process and, to safely remove the meat once take it out when you have finished.

BBQ Mitts

A good pair of extra-long, heavy duty BBQ mitts or gloves so that you do not burn your hands or forearms. These are particularly necessary when adding water or wood chips to the smoker during the smoking process. Refer the Hark Leather BBQ Gloves.

Smoking Sheet

Hark Smoking Sheets are great for smoking smaller items that will fall through between the bars of the shelves. The coated Smoking Sheets will stop the food sticking to the shelves while still allowing the smoke to push through. They also make handling delicate foods like fish easier as well as the washing up process!

Aluminium Foil

Al foil is also required to wrap around meat once it has reached the desired temperature and colour. The foil will help prevent the wood resins from further darkening the meat. It is also a good idea to line the wood chip box and water bowl with foil before use. This can make the cleaning process less cumbersome.

7.2 Preparation

- Place the smoker outside in a well ventilated area.
- Ensure there is enough gas for the Hark gas smoker to complete the preheating and cooking process.
- Ensure the water bowl has water in it and is placed under the wood chip box. This way any fat will fall into the water bowl and not onto the wood chips. If fat falls directly onto wood chips, it could potentially cause a fire to break out.

- Consider placing a BBQ mat under the smoker unit to avoid staining your deck or patio.
- Always preheat your Hark gas smoker before commencing cooking. Remove the cooking racks beforehand and load them with the food once the smoker is preheated. Loading racks into the smoker takes time and can let out significant heat.
- Soak your smoker wood chips in a separate bowl of water for at least 20 minutes prior to smoking. This will give a longer burn time and improve the smoky flavour. **DO NOT SOAK WOOD PELLETS AS THEY WILL DISINTEGRATE!**
- Line the wood chip box and water bowl with aluminium foil to minimise cleaning later.
- Put some wood chips into the wood chip box and slide the box onto the wood chip box rack.
- Insert the water bowl and add hot water. Other liquids can be used, such as beer or wine.
- Insert clean cooking racks (grids) at the levels you want and lay the meat on the grill (always place the smaller pieces on the lower grid if double loading).
- Remember that some meats will drip during the cooking process, so place vegetables on a rack above the meat to eliminate contamination.

CAUTION:

The wood chip box and lid become very hot during the smoking process. Always wear protective BBQ mitts or use long handled tongs when adding wood during the smoking process.

7.3 Good Smoking Practices

Preheat

Always wait until the fire has stabilised and the cooking chamber is up to the desired oven temperature before commencing cooking.

Thin Blue Smoke

Too much acrid creosote laden “white” smoke will ruin the entire cook. Always use flavour wood, wood chips or pellets sparingly, be sure to add small amounts at a time, waiting 30 to 45 minutes before adding any more. Smoke will penetrate meat up until internal temperatures hit 77°C (170°F). Beyond that, smoke and therefore flavour won’t penetrate the meat much. Most smoke penetration occurs within the first two hours of cooking. If you choose to add glaze to your meat prior to finishing cooking, you may wish to add a small amount of smoke to give the glaze a smoky flavour.

The biggest “rookie” mistake is to over smoke the food. With this style of smoking or barbequing, less is more!

Air Flow

Control your Hark gas smoker by the gas control knob and simply adjusting the vents. Make fine adjustments to the airflow out of the Hark gas smoker to achieve the desired temperatures.

Monitor Temperatures

Invest in a good thermometer to monitor the temperature. A digital meat probe is also important for tracking the internal temperature of the meat you are cooking.

Ambient weather conditions can affect the cooking temperatures. Rain, wind and snow can significantly lower the cooking temperature.

Tip: Rotate the thermometer gauge on the Hark gas smoker door so that your target temperature is at the top of the dial. This will allow you to easily track whether the needle is vertical and therefore “on temperature”.

Food Position

Understanding temperature variations in the Hark gas smoker is essential. These zones can be used to great advantage. The areas beside the vents for example, have an increased airflow. This can be useful if you want to dry the surface of the food.

Note that some foods may also drip therefore you will need to think about what food place under them, to avoid contamination!

Relax

The most important tip when it comes to any kind of smoking is to relax. Stay near your Hark gas smoker, check your temperatures, enjoy a drink as you watch it all unfold. Remember that it will take practice and some experimentation before you master your smoker. Taking notes and using the Hark gas smoker Cooking Log will help you repeat success stories and avoid mistakes more easily.

7.4 Tips

- Always use the best quality ingredients available.
- Do not allow food to touch the smoker walls, or other pieces of food.
- Always use a temperature probe so that you know the temperature of the food being cooked.
- Always make sure you know what temperature the smoker unit is in order to avoid over-cooked food.
- Use a Hark gas smoker Cooking Log (appendix) as the basis for your recipe development. These sheets have been specially designed to take into account all of the variables you may experience. This way, you will be better able to build you smoking expertise over a shorter period of time.

8. TEMPERATURE CONTROL

8.1 Controlling Smoker Temperatures

Air flow is crucial for gas smokers. The dampers in your Hark gas smoker can be used to make small temperature adjustments. Important to note is that the Hark Patio gas smoker has one damper at the rear of the unit where as the Hark 2 Door gas smoker has three in total – rear and each side].

The more the vent dampers are open, the more heat and smoke escapes. You'll notice that the dampers aren't able to be 100% closed. This is an intentional design to ensure there is always airflow for the gas fire.

Whilst starting out, it is recommended that your dampers are always set to approximately ½ open. This will allow plenty of air into the smoker and will provide a good supply of smoke flow past the meat. As you become more experienced, the vents can be adjusted for future sessions.

If you want a more intense smoke flavour, you can close the dampers (as far as they go) to effectively trap the smoke. However if you do this, it is important to ensure that cooking temperatures don't get too high.

Below is a rough guide of smoking cooking temperatures with the vents fully open:

LOW: 90°C (194°F)

Slow smoking for delicate foods: sausage, small goods, fish, vegetables, nuts etc.
Ideal for food warming.

MED: 135°C (275°F)

Smoke cooking for US style BBQ, ribs, chicken etc. Also good for baking.

HIGH: 180°C (356°F)

Smoke roasting, roast cooking, baking and general oven cooking.

The best way to develop reliable smoke cooking techniques is firstly understand the processes you are working with and to record each step. Again, use the Hark Smoker Cooking Log (appendix) as the basis for your recipe development, these sheets have been specially designed to take into account all of the variables you may experience.

8.2 Temperature Range

A number of factors can impact on what temperatures your smoker can achieve. These factors include ambient temperature, humidity, wind conditions and even low gas pressure. Small differences in temperature are nothing to worry about, it simply means the food will cook slower or faster. If you can protect your smoker from wind, it will function more efficiently.

At the start of a cooking process, it's normal for the smoker to show a lower temperature. Cold water in the water bowl and cold food brings the temperature down. As the food and the water in the water bowl increase in temperature, so does the smoker itself. It should be noted that the colder the food is during the initial smoke phase the better the smoke adheres to the food.

8.3 Cooking Temperature Zones

Unlike an oven, it is often difficult to aim for an exact temperature when smoking outside with a gas smoker. As such, it is more effective if we aim to achieve temperatures a certain cooking zone ie LOW, MEDIUM and HIGH.

LOW ZONE	105°C - 135°C.
MED ZONE	135°C - 160°C.
HIGH ZONE	160°C - 180°C.

When focusing on cooking zones, we can aim to smoke foods within a healthy range of temperatures, rather than a set temperature that may be difficult to achieve or hold on that given day. You will note that many of the recipes included at the end of this Cooking Guide, refer to a Temperature Zone, rather than an exact temperature for this very reason.

9. GUIDE TO COOKING MEAT

We cook food for a number of reasons – to preserve, make food safe to eat and to make food more appetising.

9.1 Grades of Meat

As you are probably aware, there are prime and secondary cuts of meat available for cooking.

Prime Cuts

Prime cuts come from those parts of the animal that work less and are therefore more tender, eg rump steak and eye fillet.

Secondary Cuts

Secondary cuts are from the working parts of an animal - steering, lifting, moving. They are tougher but possess more flavor e.g. ribs, brisket, chuck etc. This is because they possess more collagen, a protein that makes meat tough. Collagen is the connective tissue that wraps around muscle fibres. It forms the major component in tendons, ligaments, cartilage and blood vessels. Tough and fibrous, collagen will, under the right conditions, break down into gelatin. Gelatin provides a lovely silky baste to the meat.

Temperature is the key here. Collagen breaks down only with the application of heat over for a long period of time. Hence the term 'low and slow'. Collagen begins to break down in most meats at around 60°C (140°F). In fish it is much lower, around 41°C (106°F). However secondary cuts are generally cooked to a higher internal temperature than prime cuts to ensure the tough collagen has completely broken down.

9.2 Internal Temperatures

The internal temperature of meat tells us how cooked it is and a temperature probe is the most accurate way to determine the “doneness” of any cut of meat. Internal temperature is the decider in determining how long you grill or smoke food in the Hark gas smoker.

Obviously it is best not to continually measure the internal temperature as it will involve opening the lid to the cooking chamber. The ideal scenario is to invest in a remote, digital thermometer whereby the probe remains in the meat for the duration of the cooking process. Temperatures can be checked on a reading that sits outside the gas smoker. Good thermometers will also tell you the temperature in the cooking chamber or you can opt for one that sits on the smoker.

Table 3: Internal Temperatures of Beef, Chicken, Lamb & Pork.

BEEF, VEAL & STEAKS	DESCRIPTION	INTERNAL TEMPERATURE	
Extra-Rare / Blue	Red from edge to edge	46-49°C	115-120°F
Rare	Soft and red in the middle	52-55°C	125-131°F
Medium rare	Firm, warm red in the middle	55-60°C	131-140°F
Medium	Firmer, Pink from edge to edge	60-65°C	140-150°F
Medium well	Signs of pink in the middle	65-69°C	150-155°F
Well done	Firm, grey/brown from edge to edge	71°C +	160°F +

CHICKEN / TURKEY	INTERNAL TEMPERATURE	
Whole	83°C	181°F
Breast	77°C	170°F
Legs & Thighs	83°C	181°F

LAMB	INTERNAL TEMPERATURE	
Rare	57°C	135°F
Medium Rare	60-65°C	140-150°F
Medium	71°C	160°F
Well Done	74°C	165°F

PORK	INTERNAL TEMPERATURE	
Medium	71°C	160°F
Well Done	77°C plus	170°F plus

9.3 Resting Meat

The interior of a cut of meat increases in temperature by 3°-5°C (37°- 41°F) after it is removed from the heat source. It is therefore advisable to remove meat from your Hark gas smoker a few degrees before you read the target internal temperature (or target “doneness”).

If you cut into meat before it is properly rested, the tension in the muscle fibres can squeeze the moisture out of the meat. This presents as a pool of red liquid that is often mistaken as blood. Blood is bled out of meat at the abattoir. The pool of liquid is simply the juices and pigment myoglobin from the muscles in the meat. For meats cooked above 66°C (151°F), it is essential to employ a resting period to allow the fibres to relax and draw back the juices within their structure. Wrap the meat in foil then wrap the foil in a towel for at least 15 minutes (this is enough time to cook the veggies).

Some chefs rest for the equivalent time as the cooking process itself. During this process the juices will redistribute and the “cook” will be more even. When cut, the colour of meat will appear more even and the redness of medium-rare beef will disappear. You will be able to serve the meat to your more fussy guests with nothing but compliments for how juicy your roast is!

9.4 Food Safety

- Always maintain a high standard of cleanliness when handling food. Cleanliness goes a long way in preventing bacterial infection.
- Cook different types of food in separate batches. For example separate cooked fish from chicken.
- Never use salt that contains additives such as iodised salt. They can taint the food and change the chemical process dramatically.
- Always clean out ash after using your Hark gas smoker and season periodically to avoid food contamination from rust.

10. TROUBLESHOOTING

Here are some suggestions for how to overcome common issues that arise when using your gas smoker.

10.1 Temperature Fluctuations

Sometimes when you are smoking meat over long periods of time, you will encounter variations in temperature. Small variations in temperature should be ignored.

Increased temperatures can occur for a few reasons. A flare up in the wood chip box can occur if there is no water bowl placed above the wood chip box to stop meat fats from dripping into the smouldering wood chips. It is very important to have a filled water bowl in the smoker to act as a heat sink and keep the oven moist and temperatures stable.

Always use quality wood chips or pellets in small quantities (less is more) and place them directly in the wood chip box (as the box is designed to facilitate the right amount of airflow). Avoid tea tree, rosemary and other resinous or oily matter that could potentially cause unwanted flare-ups, and never use treated wood as the chemicals used are usually poisonous.

If your smoker does begin to overheat, open the smoker door (lower or upper door where applicable). Leave the door wide open for a few minutes to allow the heat escape (do not leave unattended). After the smoker temperature has dropped, close the smoker door and adjust the vents to maintain a stable target temperature.

Adding cold water to the water bowl will also help to rapidly decrease the temperature in the cooking chamber.

To minimise cooking temperatures from falling, avoid opening your smoker door(s) unless it is absolutely necessary. If you need to refill the water bowl, replenish wood chips or wrap meat in foil for example, ensure you have everything ready prior to opening the door so that you can close the door as quickly as possible. This ensures cooking temperatures return to where they were over a shorter period of time.

Weather and wind conditions can also adversely impact oven temperatures. Prior to cooking, make sure you place your smoker in a protected, safe and well ventilated position (never move during the cooking process). This will help maintain relatively stable cooking temperatures.

IMPORTANT: Always use the water bowl, to ensure that fat doesn't drip directly onto the wood chip box and potentially catch fire.

10.2 Internal Temperature 'Stall'

Your meat has been in the Hark gas smoker for hours but the internal temperature is no longer rising. This phenomenon has been named 'the stall'. This can be attributed to meat sweating ie moisture evaporates and then cools the meat. The 'stall' is typical with U.S. style BBQ smoking and tends to happen when smoking tougher cuts of meat at low temperatures.

During the 'stall', tough collagen found inside secondary cuts of meat, are broken down over time into luscious gelatin.

There are really two main approaches you can take when internal temperatures stall:

1. Be patient. Wait it out until the temperature eventually increases. Or,
2. Speed the process up by carrying out a technique some in BBQ circles refer to as 'The Texas Crutch'. This involves removing the meat, placing it on thick foil and splashing liquid such as beer, apple juice or water all over the meat. The meat then is covered securely in foil and returned to the smoker. The conventional wisdom here is that the extra moisture applied will create steam and, since steam conducts heat faster than air, it will speed up the cooking process. The foil prevents evaporation so the temperature inside the foil will slowly reach a low simmer. The meat will effectively sweat (but not cool off) as the moisture is being further heated and trapped within the foil.

11. CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Make sure you clean your Hark gas smoker after each use.
- Remove the racks and wipe them clean with a cloth or paper towel. Remove all charcoal and ash and dispose of them responsibly.
- DO NOT USE CLEANING PRODUCTS ON THE INSIDE OF THE SMOKER. This will remove the seasoning and potentially ruin the flavour of your food.
- Once cooled, store your smoker in a cool, dry space to avoid it being exposed to moisture and therefore rust.

HARK GAS SMOKER COOKING LOG



RECIPE NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Meat Type _____

Purchased From _____

Weight _____

Price/Kg _____

Fresh / Frozen

Defrost Start Time _____

Defrost End Time _____

PREPARATION INFORMATION

Marinade / Brine Details _____

Start time _____

End time _____

Baste / Glaze Details _____

Rub, Mop/Sauce Details _____

Other Comments _____

COOKING PROCEDURE

Target Internal Temp _____

Start Smoker Temp _____

Start Meat Internal Temp _____

Fuel Type _____

Qty Used _____

Wood Used _____

Soaked or Dry _____

Other Comments _____

WEATHER

Temperature _____

Conditions _____

HARK GAS SMOKER COOKING LOG



DATE: _____

TIME	SMOKER TEMP	MEAT TEMP	ACTION	COMMENT



RECIPES

HARK GAS SMOKER

HK0521 & HK0528

Prepared by:
Chris Girvan-Brown
www.urbangriller.com.au

1. CLASSIC TEXAS BBQ BRISKET

Need	Digital meat probe Foil
Prep Time	Begin preparation the day before
Wood Flavouring	Add a handful of a strong flavoured wood chips for the first 1-2 hours of cooking
Cook Time	Will vary between 9-18 hours depending on what cut is used 45 mins for resting
Temperature Zone	LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F)
Internal Temperature	93-98°C (210°F) Remove at 95°C as the temperature will increase during resting period

Unless it has been slow cooked, brisket is a tough cut of meat. Brisket is loaded with connective tissue called collagen that makes the meat tough and chewy. It is only when the collagen has been transformed into gelatin that the meat will become tender. The gelatin provides an all-important “mouth feel” of juiciness. Collagen begins to convert to gelatin at 60°C (140°F) internal temperature, but the conversion is most rapid at temperatures over 82°C (180°F) internally. It is common when cooking brisket to “stall” between 65-70°C (149-158°F). This is thought to be because at this temperature the meat “sweats” and the evaporation of surface moisture cools the meat.

An oven proof digital meat probe is recommended for cooking as an internal temperature of 93-98°C (210°F) must be reached to fully cook the brisket. Typically brisket is removed when internal temperature hits roughly 95°C (203°F) as the temperature will rise further when the meat rests.

What little juices there are in a brisket are normally lost to the cooking process. Hence brisket is often served with barbecue sauce. Cooking the meat in foil with moist heat (braising) is preferred. This way it conserves the juices and utilizes the heat better than just cooking in a smoker.

INGREDIENTS

Beef brisket (Get the biggest you can! 3kg minimum)
Dry rub (use your own or refer rub recipes further along)
Cumin
1 can of beer (Stout or Porter)

PREPARATION

Perforate the brisket using a large fork, piercing the brisket all over.

DRY RUB

Use a dry rub of your liking. Apply the rub liberally to all sides of the meat.
Cover with cling wrap and place in the refrigerator from 4 hours to overnight (to allow all flavours to fully permeate the meat).

Keep the brisket as cold as you can before cooking. The longer it spends “on smoke” before the internal temperature hits 65°-70°C (150°-160°F) the better.

COOKING

Pre heat your smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F).
Sprinkle the rub and cumin over the brisket and once 120°C is reached, quickly sear the brisket in the Hark smoker, fat side down for 2-3 minutes. Then, smoke the brisket fat-side up for

approximately 3½ - 4 hours at LOW. To allow a good smoke flavour to develop deep into the meat and to provide the characteristic “smoke ring”, try not to open the smoker doors. At the end of this time your brisket should sit at roughly 65-70°C (150-160°F).

Remove the brisket and place on a large piece of foil. Spread the thinly sliced onion under the brisket and pour ½ a can of beer over the brisket. Sprinkle with a little cumin before sealing the foil. Make sure you seal the foil well. Wrap the brisket in one more layer of heavy duty foil. Replace the wrapped brisket into the Hark gas smoker at LOW and cook for 5 to 6 hours (depending on size) until it is fork tender and roughly 95°C (203°F) internal temperature.

If you like a firmer “bark”, once the brisket comes close to temperature, you can un-wrap the foil; pour off the liquid and place it on a BBQ grill. This will dry the bark a little.

REST

Remove the meat from smoker or BBQ, loosen the foil at one end to release the steam and let the brisket rest for 45 minutes.

After resting the brisket, carefully drain the juices from the foil into a bowl and freeze for 20 to 30 minutes to allow the fat to separate from the reserved juices. Remove the fat from the juices and discard, then pour up to 1 cup of the remaining juices into a saucepan with your favourite barbecue sauce and add some of the rub. Stir and heat through to combine into a spicy hot sauce. Serve the sauce on the side (as not everybody likes a lot of sauce) and consider having a mustard or horseradish as a condiment.

SERVE

Separate the top and bottom of the brisket, trimming off any undesired excess fat. Slice across grain into long, thin slices.

TIPS

When selecting a brisket, pick it up and fold it in half. It should be supple enough to touch end to end after trying a couple of times.

2. REVERSE SEAR STEAK

Need	Digital meat probe
Prep Time	None
Wood Flavouring	Consider adding a handful of wood chips to the fuel load for a smoky flavour
Cook Time	Approximately 1 hour
Temperature Zone	Cooking: LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F) Grilling: HIGH - 250°C on a gas BBQ
Internal Temperature	Rare: 45°C (113°F) Medium: 55°C (130°F) Well done: 65°C (150°F)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The sear marks we all associate with grilled foods are a result of caramelisation on the surface of the meat. Also known as the Maillard reaction after French scientist Louis-Camille Maillard who studied the browning of foods in the early 1900s. The Maillard reaction starts at low temperatures, but develops rapidly at temperatures in excess of 150°C (300°F).

INGREDIENTS

Grain fed Angus Porterhouse
Ghee or olive oil

Preheat your Hark gas smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F).

Firstly, ensure you choose a real piece of steak. I'm using a grass fed Angus Porterhouse that is 2 inches thick.

From here you need to allow the steak to slowly reach the internal temperature you are seeking before you sear it. This process reduces stress on the meat fibres and ensures all the proteins have de-natured and released their moisture. This way the meat becomes soft and luscious. Place the steak in a dish with some ghee (clarified butter) or olive oil and this will act as a bath and prevent any part of the steak 'cooking' or drying out more than any other. It will give a gentle heat up phase. You could use olive oil instead of the ghee.

COOKING

Put the dish with the steak into the gas smoker so it warms the steak through slowly. Use a Hark temperature probe to check the internal meat temperatures.

Rare: 45°C (113°F)
Medium: 55°C (130°F)
Well done: 65°C (150°F)

Just before your steak reaches the desired internal temperature, fire up your gas grill in order to reach a searing temperature of around 250°C. When the steak is at temperature, remove the dish from the smoker and take the steak out of its 'bath' before patting dry with a kitchen towel. Season to your liking before placing onto the hot grill to quickly sear. Remember your steak is already cooked, you are just looking for some colour.

SERVING

Rest the steak for 5-10 minutes before plating.

3. PORK RIBS

Need	Digital meat probe Foil
Prep Time	Begin preparing the pork ribs at least 24 hours before you plan to start cooking
Wood Flavouring	Use a handful of apple or fruitwood wood chips to the fuel load in the first 1-2 hours of cooking
Cook Time	5-6 hrs
Temperature Zone	LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F)
Internal Temperature	Not required (not enough flesh to take internal temperature)

First decide what pork ribs you are using. “American” style ribs are usually poor value for money in Australia as too much of the meat has been taken from the outside of the ribs to make bacon. I suggest using forequarter short rib instead (where the rib joins the shoulder). This is a cheaper cut but has more meat. Just make sure you buy them whole.

Use your favourite BBQ rub and BBQ sauce. Or you can use Chris Brown's Cheats BBQ Rub and Simple BBQ Sauce recipes included in this Cooking Guide.

INGREDIENTS

Pork ribs
1 litre apple juice
1 cup lime / lemon juice

PREPARATION

Place slab of rib rack bone side down.
Slide a knife under the membrane & against the end bone to separate it from the bone, Using a dry paper towel hold the edge of the thin membrane & pull it off slowly. It should separate from the back side of the rib in one piece.
Generously apply the BBQ Rub onto the front & back sides of the rib rack. Gently pat to ensure that the rub sticks well.
Place in the fridge for a minimum of 3 hours although 24 hours is preferred.

PREPARATION & COOKING

Step 1
Mix 150ml of the lime / lemon juice with the apple juice and set aside.
Preheat the gas smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F).
Place the ribs on a rack in the smoker meat side up. Or, place if you have a rib rack, place that on one of the smoker racks.
Slowly smoke the ribs for the next 3-4 hours.

Step 2
Remove the ribs from the heat.
Place each set of ribs in heavy-duty foil (use two layers of foil to minimise the risk of tearing). The foil should be big enough to cover the whole rack of ribs.
Add 150 to 250ml of the juice marinade to each rib racks in its foil pack. Seal each pack tightly.
Return the foil packs to the heat for 2 more hours.

Step 3
Remove the foil-wrapped ribs from the heat. Take off the foil and set aside the juice. Add some hooney, BBQ sauce and some rib run to the juice to make a glaze. Brush some of the glaze onto

the ribs.

Place the ribs uncovered and meat side up, back into the smoker for a further 45 minutes. Glaze every 15 minutes.

SERVING

Cut up the ribs and serve with a tangy coleslaw and a fresh potato salad. Make sure you have plenty of napkins. Eating ribs is a messy process, enjoy!

4. SMOKY PORCHETTA

Need	Baking tray Brine bucket Fork or spike tenderiser Cooking string Baking paper
Prep Time	2 Days
Wood Flavouring	Consider adding a handful of apple wood chips to the fuel load in the first 1-2 hours of cooking
Cook Time	HIGH: 160-180°C (320-356°F) for 45 mins, then MED: 135-160°C (275-320°F) for 45-60 mins
Temperature Zone	HIGH then MED
Internal Temperature	60°C (Medium) or 75°C (Well Done)

INGREDIENTS

Pork loin or belly

RUB

1 tblsp salt

1 tblsp 5 spice powder

1 tblsp sugar

½ tblsp garlic powder

½ tblsp pepper

¼ tblsp fennel seed

¼ tblsp ginger powder

BRINE

Water

Table salt

PREPARATION & COOKING

Day 1

Prick the skin of the pork all over with a canvas needle, carving fork or “docker” style tenderiser.

Prepare a brine of 1 tablespoon of salt to 1 litre of water. Add a tablespoon of the rub and submerge the loin in the brine overnight in the fridge.

Mix all of the rub ingredients together in a separate bowl and set aside.

Remove the pork from the brine and dry thoroughly. Rub the meat side of the pork, the sides and the ends generously with the spice rub.

Line a baking tray with baking paper and place the belly on the tray skin-side down and refrigerate uncovered over night or up to 24 hours so it can absorb the flavours.

Day 2

Preheat your Hark gas smoker to HIGH: 160-180°C (320-356°F).

Remove from the refrigerator and place the skin side down on a board and cover with the leftover rub.

Place the tied pork into your smoker and cook for approximately 45 minutes. Then reduce the heat to MED (approximately 150°C) and cook the Porchetta for another 45-65 minutes until the internal temperature reaches 60°C (Medium) and 75°C (Well Done), depending on your preference.

If you'd like crackling, rub the skin with a little baking soda or salt before placing it in a BBQ tray and exposing it high radiant heat, by placing it on your gas BBQ or in your oven.

Allow the porchetta to rest about 15-20 minutes before carving.

SERVING

Carve and serve with apple sauce and your favourite greens and cooked potatoes.

5. COUNTRY HAM

Temperature Zone: LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F)

This couldn't be any easier!

Ham is smoke-cooked, pickled pork. Tell your butcher you want to make your own ham and order a pickled leg of pork. A good butcher will ask you if you want a salt brined leg or a nitrate cured leg. A nitrate cured leg will "keep" because the nitrate acts as a preservative. Nitrate cured ham also gives the ham a pink colour. Where as salt brined pork won't last as long due to the lack of preservatives and will appear more greyish in colour (still tastes like ham).

Smoke at LOW until the internal temperature of the ham reaches 70°C (160°F).

Remove the ham from the smoker, serve hot or plunge into ice water to cease the cooking process.

Cover the ham with waxed paper, then cover the paper with a layer of foil.

Place in the fridge and on the following day, you will have ham!

6. OLD SCHOOL BACON (NITRATE FREE)

Temperature Zone: LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F)

This is a traditional bacon recipe without nitrites. Nitrate acts as a preservative to ensure the bacon lasts longer in your fridge. But for the purpose of this recipe, we're opting for preservative free. Note that you can freeze or vacuum seal the bacon in order to make it last longer.

The pork is cured in the fridge for 5 days prior to smoking, so plan ahead.

INGREDIENTS

2kg pork belly

300g salt

200g brown sugar

6 juniper berries (crushed)

1 Tblspn of cracked black pepper

Mix the dry ingredients together, coat the pork and place in a zip-lock bag, together with the remaining cure, store in the fridge and turn over once every day for 5 days.

Remove the pork from the bag, discard the cure and rinse off to remove any excess, pat dry, place on a rack and sit in a baking dish to catch any drips. Leave uncovered in the fridge overnight so it completely dries out.

Smoke at LOW until the internal temperature of the bacon reaches 60°C (140°F).

Remove the bacon from the smoker and plunge into ice water to cease the cooking process.

Cover the bacon with waxed paper, then cover the paper with a layer of foil before storing in the fridge overnight.

On the following day, thinly slice the bacon and vacuum pack portions to freeze for later use. Remembering of course to leave enough bacon in your fridge for the week ahead.

7. PULLED PORK

Need	Digital meat probe Hark Marinade Injector Foil
Prep Time	Start the night before if you want to brine the pork
Wood Flavouring	Consider adding a handful of banksia cones or some fruitwood to the fuel load in the first 1-2 hours of cooking
Cook Time	7-10½ hours and 1 hour resting
Temperature Zone	LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F)
Internal Temperature	90°C (195°F)

INGREDIENTS

1 Pork Shoulder or whole pork Scotch
1 cup Pay Dirt Rub

INJECTOR SAUCE

2 cups apple juice
1¼ cup of raw sugar
4 tblsp of cider vinegar
3 tblsp table salt
2 tblsp of your hot chili sauce

POACHING MIX

125g butter
½ cup raw sugar
½ can beer (not bitter)
2 tblsp of hot chili sauce

SAUCE - SWEET PORK

1 cup of BBQ sauce
¼ cup Golden Syrup
2 tblsp of hot chili sauce
75 mls apple juice

Place the pork in a container and inject the Injector Sauce into the pork using a Hark Marinade Injector.

Rub a good layer of Pay Dirt Rub all over the pork.

Place the pork, uncovered in the fridge overnight.

COOKING

Preheat your Hark gas smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F).

Place the pork into the smoker straight from the fridge. The meat only takes on smoke up until it reaches 65°C (150°F) so a cold start prolongs the smoke exposure.

After 5 hours, look to see if a nice “bark” or crust has formed.

Remove the pork, slather it with the butter and double wrap in foil with the Poaching Mix. Return to the Hark smoker.

After one hour, check the temperature with an instant read thermometer. It may take a couple more hours to reach the target internal temperature, just over 90°C (195°F). Also important is the texture, your probe should slide in easily!

Open a corner of the foil to let the steam out, this will prevent the pork from overcooking. Remove the pork from the Hark gas smoker and let it rest in the foil for at least 1 hour.

SERVING

Use two forks to tear the meat into shreds and mix with the pork jus from the foil packet. Serve with the Sweet Pork Sauce and some freshly prepared coleslaw.

8. PULLED LAMB OR MUTTON

Need	Digital meat probe Foil
Prep Time	Start the night before if you want to brine the lamb
Wood Flavouring	Consider adding fresh rosemary to your wood chips in the first 1-2 hours of cooking
Cook Time	7-10½ hours 30 mins resting
Temperature Zone	LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F)
Internal Temperature	93-98°C (210°F)

Some people, such as my wife, complain that lamb and mutton are gamey and fatty. However I think they are packed with subtle, sweet, grassy flavours. Leg of lamb, lamb chops and lamb fillet all work well when cooked medium-rare. The shoulder and forequarter however have more flavour due to the increased connective tissue. This connective tissue can be tough, hence gentle, slow cooking over a long period of time is required to convert the collagen into soft sticky flavourful gelatin.

If you can get mutton you will be rewarded with deep complex flavours. Lamb will give a lighter but equally luscious result. In Australia and New Zealand our lamb is historically a by-product of the wool industry. It has a stronger flavour than you will find in other places where a milder, more subtle and grassy meat is a result of selective breeding.

INGREDIENTS

Lamb shoulder (use leg if you can't source a shoulder)

1 bunch fresh rosemary

1 bunch fresh mint

BASTE

1 cup apple cider vinegar 1 cup water

1 can of dark beer (stout or porter)

¼ cup Worcestershire sauce

1 tblsp chopped rosemary

1 tblsp dark brown sugar

½ tblsp salt

½ tblsp crushed fresh garlic

1 tsp hot smoked paprika

Mix all the baste ingredients together in a saucepan and stir continuously over low heat. Simmer for 5 minutes, remove ¾ of the baste and allow to cool.

Heat the remaining baste to a boil and add another tablespoon of dark brown sugar to use as a 'dip' with finished meat. Set aside for the resting period.

COOKING

Pre heat your gas smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F).

Place the lamb inside smoker and smoke for 10 hours (yes 10!). Baste the shoulder once an hour, every hour for the next 10 hours.

After 10 hours, or when the meat registers an internal temperature of roughly 90°C (195°F),

remove the lamb from the smoker. Place on a double layer of foil, add a bunch of fresh rosemary and mint as well as the left over $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of baste before sealing.

Rest the pork for 30 minutes. In that time, the fresh herbs will infuse into the lamb.

SERVING

Loosely shred the meat with a fork or food handlers gloves and serve with the juices from the foil mixed through the meat.

Larger chunks amongst the shredded meat give a textural difference and add to the experience.

Heat the remaining baste to a boil, add another tablespoon of the dark brown sugar and use as a 'dip' with finished meat.

9. BEER-CAN CHICKEN, TEXAS STYLE

Need	Hark Beer-Can Chicken Roaster or Hark Grill Basket with Chicken Roaster Digital meat probe Foil
Prep Time	Start the night before if you wish to brine the chicken
Wood Flavouring	Use a lighter flavor like apple wood chips / pellets
Cook Time	45-60 minutes
Temperature Zone	HIGH: 160-180°C (320-356°F)
Internal Temperature	Thigh 83°C

I'm not convinced by the logic of beer-can chicken. The theory is that the chicken cavity slides over a beer can. The beer heats up and produces steam that flavours the inside of the chicken, keeping the chicken moist. But for me, if the beer is hot enough to steam, then the chicken is already well cooked! Rather, I think by plugging the cavity with the can, it stops the juices escaping from the bird. One thing is for certain, this method of vertical roasting cooks the bird evenly and that makes for great chicken. Kind of like the 'poor man's rotisserie'!

INGREDIENTS

Free range whole chicken

Butter or olive oil

Dry rub / Harissa

Pre-heat your Hark gas smoker to HIGH: 160-180°C (320-356°F).

Bring the chook out of the fridge before cooking to bring it to room temperature. Rub the chicken all over with a thin coat of butter or olive oil and coat with your favourite BBQ rub or spice mix. Pay Dirt Rub is ideal, but I also like harissa for that Mediterranean feel.

Open a can of beer and pour out half. Add a few tablespoons of left over rub or a smidge of harissa into the beer.

COOKING

Slide the chicken over the can on the beer-can roaster and place in the gas smoker at 170°C. Roast until the internal thigh temperature reaches 83°C.

Cover the chicken with a clean tea towel and rest it for at least ten minutes before carving and serving.

SERVING

Serve with a salad, in wraps with Tzatziki or with your favourite roast vegetables.

10. SMOKED CHICKEN

Need	Chicken shears
Prep Time	Start the night before to brine the chicken
Wood Flavouring	Use a lighter flavor like apple wood chips / pellets.
Cook Time	1 hour approximately
Temperature Zone	MED: 135-160°C (275-320°F)
Internal Temperature	Breast 83°C

INGREDIENTS

- 1 whole chicken
- 2 litres of water
- 2 tblsp salt
- 1 tblsp honey
- 1 tsp ground pepper
- 1 tblsp oil

Day 1

Mix the water, salt, honey and pepper to make a brine.
Remove the chicken's backbone and flatten (this will enable to chicken to cook more quickly).
Submerge the chicken into the brine and refrigerate for 24 hours.

Day 2

Pre-heat your Hark gas smoker to MED (approximately 110°C).
Drain the chicken and pour boiling water over the skin.
Pat the chicken dry and rub with oil.
Place inside the smoker at 110°C for 2 hours or until the internal breast temperature reaches 83°C (180°F).
Rest the chicken for 10 minutes before serving.

11. SMOKED CHICKEN & PROSCIUTTO

Need	Toothpicks
Prep Time	Start the night before to brine the chicken
Wood Flavouring	Use a lighter flavor like apple wood chips / pellets.
Cook Time	1 hour
Temperature Zone	LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F)
Internal Temperature	Thigh 83°C

INGREDIENTS

Chicken breasts
Slices of Prosciutto
Pesto

Spread the pesto onto the chicken breast.
Wrap slices of Prosciutto over each chicken breast and secure with a toothpick.

COOKING

Smoke on LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F) for 11-12 hours.

12. OLIVE BRINED QUAIL

Need	Poultry sheers Large pot for brining
Prep Time	4-8 hours
Wood Flavouring	Use a lighter flavor like apple wood chips or pellets
Cook Time	30-45 minutes
Temperature Zone	MED: 135-160°C (275-320°F)
Internal Temperature	Thigh 83°C

INGREDIENTS

6 quails

1 litre of brine from a good bucket/jar of olives.

Remove the backbones from the quails and flatten them.

The secret here is olive brine, ie. the liquid your olives come in. My supermarket deli keeps olive brine for me (normaly they tip it out). Ask nicely and they may do the same for you!

Taste the brine. If it has the saltiness as the sea, brine the quails in the fridge for 8 hours.

If it tastes saltier than sea water, brine the quails in the fridge for only 4 hours.

Note: ensure the quails are fully submersed in the brine for the required time.

COOKING

Pre heat your gas smoker to MED: 135-160°C (275-320°F).

Smoke the quails for 30-45 minutes until the thigh read 83°C.

Rest for 5 minutes before serving.

13. CEDAR PLANK SALMON

Need	Cedar planks (Western Red Cedar)
Prep Time	[Soak the cedar planks in water the night before] 1-1½ hour on the day
Wood Flavouring	Consider adding a handful of wood chips or herbs to the fuel load at the start of the cooking
Cook Time	45-60 minutes
Temperature Zone	MED: 135-160°C (275-320°F)
Internal Temperature	60°C

INGREDIENTS

Salmon fillet portions, skin removed

Lemon slices

GLAZE

⅓ cup olive oil

1½ tblsp apple cider vinegar

⅓ cup soy sauce

¼ cup chopped spring onions

1 tblsp grated fresh ginger

1 tsp minced garlic

PREPARATION

Soak the cedar planks in water overnight.

COOKING

Mix the glaze ingredients together in a bowl. Place the salmon fillets in the glaze to marinate for one hour.

Preheat your Hark gas smoker to MED: 135-160°C (275-320°F).

Option: preheat the planks in the smoker.

Place the drained salmon fillets onto the planks and put a slice of lemon on top of each one.

Smoke for approximately 45-60 minutes.

SERVING

The salmon is ready to serve when you can flake it with a fork, or when the internal temperature reaches 60°C.

Serve on the cedar planks.

14. SMOKED TROUT

Need	Paper towels Bamboo skewers
Prep Time	1 hour plus marinating over night
Wood Flavouring	Beech or fruitwood chips
Cook Time	2 - 3 hours
Temperature Zone	LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F)
Internal Temperature	60°C

INGREDIENTS

6-8 whole trout (10-12 inches thick), cleaned and rinsed
4 cups water
½ cup sugar
½ cup non-iodised salt
2 tblsp chili powder
2 tblsp garlic powder
3 bamboo skewers, cut into 2-3 inch pieces

PREPARATION

Mix all the ingredients together in a large bowl until the sugar and salt fully dissolve. Place the trout into the mixture and coat thoroughly before covering and marinating in the fridge overnight. Remove the trout from the mixture on the next day and pat dry. Place the trout fillets between two layers of paper towels and let them stand for 30 minutes. Preheat your Hark gas smoker to the lowest temperature. Slide 1 length of bamboo skewer through each trout horizontally in order to hold it open.

COOKING

Smoke the trout on LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F) for approximately 3-4 hours. Replace the wood chips two or three times during the smoking process. To add flavour to your smoked trout, glaze each fillet with butter when the wood chips are being replaced. This smoked trout recipe serves many and the smoked trout can be stored in the freezer for up to 8 months (use a vacuum sealer if you have one).

15. BACON-WRAPPED SMOKED TROUT

Need	Hark BBQ Grill Sheet or Baking paper
Prep Time	30 minutes approximately
Wood Flavouring	Consider adding a handful of fruit wood chips or a couple of banksia cones to the fuel load in as you start cooking.
Cook Time	Approximately 30 minutes
Temperature Zone	HIGH: 160-180°C (320-356°F)
Internal Temperature	60°C

This classic trout dish gives a crisp smoky bacon shell and a soft succulent pink flesh.

INGREDIENTS

- 12 thin slices of bacon or speck
- 2 whole rainbow trout about 500g (1lb)
- 2 tblsp olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 6 sprigs of fresh tarragon

COOKING

Preheat your Hark gas smoker to HIGH: 160-180°C (320-356°F).

Cook the bacon on a pan or on your BBQ hotplate for approximately 5-10 minutes.

Allow the bacon to cool.

Brush the inside and outside of each trout with 1 teaspoon of the olive oil, season with salt and pepper and then stuff with 3 sprigs of tarragon each. Set aside.

Arrange the 6 bacon slices on a cutting board, slightly overlapping each other. Position a trout at right angles at one end, then pick up the bacon to wrap the trout.

Place the trout in your gas smoker with the seam side down (use a BBQ Grill Sheet so the salmon won't get stuck on the cooking grate).

Preheat your gas BBQ while you smoke the trout in the smoker for approximately 15 minutes.

Remove the trout from the smoker and the BBQ Grill Sheet). Place the trout onto your BBQ hotplate in order to crisp the bacon.

SERVING

Plate immediately and serve with a fresh garden salad.

16. SMOKED OYSTERS

INGREDIENTS

Oysters

Option – garlic and pepper

Preheat your Hark gas smoker to 90°C (195°F) and use a light wood chip like beech.

Boil a large pot of water.

Remove oysters from their shells and reserve the liquor.

COOKING

Place the oysters into the hot water, stir them in the water so that they blanch evenly for 5-6 seconds.

Place in the smoker for 25-30 minutes.

Once cooled, store the oysters in a clean jar covered with olive oil.

Pour the reserved liquor into the jar and if you wish, add some crushed garlic and pepper before sealing.

Store in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.

17. SMOKED ITALIAN SAUSAGE [BOERWARS]

INGREDIENTS

Boerwars or Italian sausage

Olive oil

Preheat your Hark gas smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F). Use beech or oak wood chips.

Lightly brush the sausages with olive oil (better still, garlic infused olive oil).

COOKING

Place the sausages in the smoker for approximately 1 hour prior to serving.

18. JALAPENO POPPERS

INGREDIENTS

40 large jalapeno peppers
250g cream cheese, brought to room temperature
1 cup grated cheddar, parmesan or Mozzarella
1-1½ tsp BBQ Rub
2 tblsp sour cream
20 slices smoked bacon, halved

Preheat your Hark gas smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F).

Wash the jalapenos, cut the stem ends off with a paring knife, and scrape the seeds and ribs out of each one carefully.

Mix the cream cheese, grated cheese, sour cream and BBQ rub together.

Fill each Jalapeno with the cheese mix. Wrap the outside of each with a half piece of bacon and secure with a toothpick.

COOKING

Smoke cook jalapenos for 1 hour at a high heat in your gas smoker. Then briefly place the jalapenos on a BBQ hotplate or a kitchen pan in order to crisp the bacon.

19. ARMADILLO EGGS

This is simply a man-sized version of the above Jalapeno Poppers recipe.

Using whole seeded jalapenos, and the same recipe as above, wrap each stuffed chili in sausage mince, then dust with BBQ rub before smoke cooking for two hours in your gas smoker until the internal temperature reaches 65°C.

20. SPICED BBQ CORN

This is a real crowd pleaser and dead simple! Start with this simple recipe then modify it to suit the taste of your guests. If they like things hot, add some chili! Fresh chopped herbs also work well with this recipe.

INGREDIENTS

Whole ears of corn
Pay Dirt Rub
Butter
Chopped fresh herbs & chili (optional)

Pre-heat your Hark gas smoker to MED: 135-160°C (275-320°F).

Peel the outer leaves away from the corn and remove the inner fibres (set aside the corn leaves).

Place the corn in a clean bucket of cold water for at least an hour.

Remove the corn and drain. Spread butter all over the corn and sprinkle with the BBQ rub. Fold the leaves back over the corn. Adhere with some cooking string if you like.

COOKING

Place the corn in the smoker and heat for 1 hour before serving.

21. STUFFED POTATO WITH SWEET CORN & CAPSICUM

INGREDIENTS

4 medium sized potatoes
1 cup grated cheese (Mozzarella and tasty mixed is ideal)
½ cup capsicum, finely chopped 1 tin sweet corn kernels
1 tsp chili flakes
2 tsp dried oregano
Salt to taste
Olive oil

Preheat your Hark gas smoker to MED: 135-160°C (275-320°F).

Wash the potatoes and boil them gently till $\frac{3}{4}$ cooked. Remove from the pot and cool.

Cut the potatoes in half and carefully scoop out the centre without breaking the skin to make small “boats”. Save the scooped out potato in a bowl

Finely chop the capsicum, sweet corn kernels, oregano and chili flakes and mix into the scooped-out potato. Season with some salt and gently stir to mix the seasoning well.

To the oil, add some salt and with a pastry brush, paint the salt-oil mixture to the skin of the potato boats.

Spoon the potato mixture into each boat and top with a sprinkle of grated cheese and ground black pepper.

COOKING

Place the stuffed potatoes in the smoker at 150°C and bake for a further 20-25 minutes until the cheese turns golden.

22. SMOKED PORTABELLO MUSHROOMS

INGREDIENTS

Portabello mushrooms
2 tblsp Worcestershire sauce
2 tblsp butter, melted
Salt and pepper

Preheat the gas smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F) and use a light flavoured wood like beech or apple.

Clean the mushrooms, remove the stem and scrape out the black gills with a spoon.

Combine the Worcestershire sauce with the melted butter.

Coat the mushrooms with the butter mixture and season with salt and pepper.

COOKING

Place inside the smoker and smoke for approximately 45 minutes.

23. SMOKED ROAST POTATO

INGREDIENTS

Kestral or Royal Blue Potatoes
Olive oil
Butter

Preheat the gas smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F).

Peel the potatoes and cut into pieces no bigger than a golf ball.

Par-boil the potatoes in boiling water for 5-6 minutes.

Drain and then put them back into the hot pot, drizzle over some olive oil and a good dollop of butter. Make sure all the potatoes are coated before removing from the pan (set the pan aside).

COOKING

Place the potatoes into the smoker for 10 minutes and then return them to the butter mixture.

20 minutes before you wish to serve dinner, place the potatoes into the oven or a frying pan to obtain a crisp, golden shell.

24. SMOKED GARLIC

INGREDIENTS

Garlic

Whenever you have spare room in your smoker, place garlic pieces with the skin on, anywhere you can. Serve as an accompaniment or store in a jar full of olive oil (great for salad dressings).

COOKING

Place inside the smoker and smoke for 20 minutes.

Serve with roast pork or use in an apple pie.

25. SMOKED SALT

INGREDIENTS

Non Iodised, coarse sea salt (or rock salt)
Water (in a spray bottle)

Consider smoking salt whenever you have spare room in your smoker (low temperature is best). Spread the salt in a thin layer across some aluminium foil or in a roasting dish and give it a light spray of water. Place it in the smoker and smoke for 1 hour on low heat.

Let the salt cool to room temperature and pack into your salt grinder or store as required.

COOKING

Place inside the smoker and smoke for 20 minutes.

Serve with roast pork or use in an apple pie.

26. SMOKED TOMATOES

INGREDIENTS

Tomatoes

Preheat the gas smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F).

Cut the tomatoes in half.

COOKING

Place the tomatoes into the smoker and smoke for 20-30 minutes.

Serve as an accompaniment to a mixed grill or sausages, or, use to make a sumptuous, smoky pasta sauce.

27. SMOKED LEMONS

INGREDIENTS

Lemons

Preheat the gas smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F). Cut the lemons in half and remove any pips.

COOKING

Place inside the smoker and smoke for 20-30 minutes.

Serve as a condiment or use to make preserved lemons.

28. SMOKED APPLES

INGREDIENTS

Apples

Preheat the gas smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F).

Cut the apples into quarters or slices and remove the core and pips.

COOKING

Place inside the smoker and smoke for 20 minutes.

Serve with roast pork or use in an apple pie.

29. SMOKED ALMONDS

INGREDIENTS

2 cups of whole, raw almonds

¼ cup butter, melted

1 tblsp salt

2 tsp white sugar

½ tsp onion powder

½ tsp celery powder or curry powder

Preheat the gas smoker to LOW: 105-135°C (220-275°F) and use a light flavoured wood like

beech or apple.

Melt the butter in a small pot. Add the almonds and stir to coat them thoroughly.

Remove from the heat and cover.

Stir every couple of minutes for 10 minutes.

Place the onion powder, celery powder, salt and sugar in a spice grinder and grind until it forms a fine powder.

Drain the almonds, coat with the powder and spread on a tray that is lined with baking powder.

COOKING

Place inside the smoker and smoke for 30-60 minutes.

Remove and cool before storing in an air tight container.

Note: The almonds will be soft when they are hot and will crunchy as they cool as moisture evaporates.

30. BRINE, MARINADES, RUBS AND SAUCES

CHRIS' BASIC BRINE

- 1 litre of water
- 1 tblsp of salt

This mixture can be flavoured with anything you like - such as crushed garlic, lemon, peppercorns, herbs, a teaspoon of good curry paste, brown sugar, soy sauce or ginger.

Soak the meat in the brine and place in the refrigerator overnight. Ensure that the meat is fully submerged in the brine.

Note that there is an increasing push to include iodised salt in our cooking. Whilst this is a good initiative, iodised salt is not recommend for use in brining.

CHRIS' BASIC MARINADE

- 1 cup white wine
- 1 cup grape seed oil Juice from one lemon
- 3 crushed cloves of garlic 3 or 4 stems of rosemary 1 tsp of crushed pepper

Combine all ingredients in a ceramic or glass dish.

Add the meat and thoroughly cover it with the marinade before refrigerating overnight.

CHRIS' BASIC RUB

- 1 tblsp cumin powder
- 1 tblsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp black pepper powder

Rub the meat with a clove of garlic, cover with the rub mixture.

Refrigerate overnight in a plastic bag or in a glass or ceramic bowl.

DALMATIAN RUB

Equal quantities of rock salt and peppercorns.

Heat the salt and pepper in a dry wok till it starts to smoke, remove from the heat and allow to cool before grinding into a powder.

BIG RED RUB

- 1 tblsp salt
- 1 tblsp pepper
- 1 tblsp garlic powder
- 1 tblsp onion powder
- 1 tblsp cayenne powder
- 1 tblsp chilli powder
- ¼ cup paprika
- ½ cup brown sugar

Mix all ingredients together and keep in an airtight jar.

PAY DIRT RUB

2 packs Old El Paso fajita mix
80g unrefined sugar (Demerara)
50g coffee sugar crystals

Mix all ingredients together and keep in an airtight jar.
You could add a little fresh ground black pepper if you like.

SANTA MARIA STEAK RUB

1 tblsp kosher salt
1 tblsp coarse ground black pepper
1 tblsp garlic powder
1 tblsp onion powder
1 tblsp dried oregano
2 tsp cayenne pepper
½ tsp dried sage
1 tsp fresh minced rosemary

Mix all ingredients together and keep in an airtight jar.

SMOKED CHILLI OIL AND SMOKED GARLIC OIL

Olive oil (or grapeseed oil)

Garlic

Jalapeno Chili

(Quantity of olive oil and garlic depends on the quantity of chillies you have and size of your pot. You will need enough oil to cover the chillies.)

These are fantastic condiments for pasta and salad dressings. And the chili oil is mandatory in our house whenever we cook pizza!

Peel garlic cloves and / or cut jalapeno chillies in half.

Place the garlic / chillies in a cast iron pot, pour over olive / grapeseed oil and place in the cooking chamber when you are cooking low and slow.

The gentle heat will cook the garlic and chili whilst the smoke will infuse the oil. Allow to cool and store in a sterile, airtight jar.

HARLEM SAUCE

1 cup tomato sauce
½ cup hot sauce (Louisiana Hot Sauce)
¾ cup Worcestershire sauce
2 cups vinegar
4 cloves garlic, chopped
1 cup brown sugar
1 tsp salt
½ tsp ground white pepper
½ cup lemon juice, freshly squeezed

Gently heat all the above on the stove top until all the sugar is dissolved. Allow to cool and bottle in a sterile, airtight jar.

CLASSIC BBQ SAUCE

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) tomato paste*
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) white vinegar
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) soy sauce
- 1 tsp (5 ml) Worcestershire sauce
- 1 dash hot Tabasco sauce
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) dark brown sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) molasses
- 1 tsp (5 ml) mustard powder
- 1 tsp (5 ml) garlic powder
- 1 tsp (5 ml) onion powder
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 1 tsp (5 ml) mixed herbs
- ½ cup (125 ml) water

Great for smoked meats. Combine all the ingredients in a saucepan. Whisk thoroughly or combine with a hand-held blender to ensure there are no lumps. Simmer over low heat while stirring frequently for 1 hour (this pasteurizes the sauce). Cool for at least 1 hour before transferring to an airtight container. Store for up to 1 month in the refrigerator.

*consider using your own smoked tomatoes instead of the tomato paste.

SIMPLE BBQ SAUCE

- 1 small (1/3 cup) red onion minced
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 small can tomato paste
- 2 cans water, from empty tomato paste can
- ¼ cup molasses
- 1 cup honey
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp salt

In a small heavy-bottomed saucepan gently heat the olive oil on your stove top. Add the shallots and garlic and sauté for 2-3 minutes or until the shallots start to turn translucent and begin to brown.

Add the tomato paste and water and mix through. Allow to come to a boil, then lower the heat to a simmer and cook for 5 minutes.

Add the molasses, honey, vinegar, fish sauce, Dijon mustard, and salt and mix through. Bring to the boil, then lower the temperature and simmer for approximately 15 minutes.



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