Daybreak Pheasant Sliders

Recipe by Chef Rachel Hogan.

INGREDIENTS
(Serves 9)
• 12 to 14 pheasant thighs
• 20 cloves of garlic
• 1 yellow onion sliced
• Oil, to brown in (or bacon fat)
• 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
• 1 tablespoon cumin, ground
• Coarse Kosher salt
• Beef broth
• Barbecue sauce (purchased or homemade)
• 12 Hawaiian slider buns
• Orange juice
• Honey-lime slaw, recipe following

For the Honey-Lime Slaw
• 1 part shredded cabbage
• 1 part broccoli slaw mix
• 1/4 cup honey
• 1/2 cup vegetable oil
• 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
• 1 lime, zest and juice
• Salt, to taste
• 1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds
TO PREPARE:

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees.
2. In a Dutch oven, heat oil until hot. Sear pheasant thighs in batches, gaining color on both sides but not attempting to cook through.
3. When the last batch is removed, add onion slices and cook until translucent, about 3 to 5 minutes. Add the garlic, smoked paprika, and cumin and cook one more minute to slightly toast the spices.
4. Deglaze hot pan by pouring in 1 cup of beef broth and scraping up all the flavorful bits stuck to the bottom of the pan.
5. Add the pheasant thighs back to the pan and add enough broth to cover the meat. Bring to a simmer and cover. Place in a 300-degree oven and braise for three hours.
6. After three hours, remove the pan from the oven and allow to cool completely. Remove pheasant thighs from the broth and shred. Set aside.
7. Strain the remaining liquid from the pan, setting aside the onions and garlic. Cook down the broth until reduced by half. In a blender, blend the onion and garlic mixture until smooth and this add back to the reduced broth.
8. Take one part of the reduction and one part prepared barbecue sauce and simmer together with a splash of orange juice. Season to taste.
FOR THE SLAW:
   1. Take one part of the reduction and one part prepared barbecue sauce and simmer together with a splash of orange juice. Season to taste.

TO SERVE:
Pour warm sauce over the shredded meat to lightly coat. Serve on toasted Hawaiian buns topped with honey-lime slaw and a dill pickle.