ROAST CHICKEN WITH POTATOES & CARROTS
SERVES 4 | 1 HOUR 45 MINUTES

This is a classic Sunday dinner that the whole family will love. It’s super simple too. Always try to buy the best quality chicken you can afford – aim for RSPCA-Assured birds as a minimum, then trade up when you can. I’ve seen the way low-standard chickens are kept and I’d never feed them to my kids.

JAMIE OLIVER’S FOOD REVOLUTION
Jamie is urging all of us to cook for our lives. This recipe is one of Jamie’s 10 Food Revolution recipes that together can teach us all the skills we need to feed ourselves and our families good, nutritious food for years to come. For all 10 recipes go to jamiesfoodrevolution.org and celebrate the power of fresh, healthy, real food.

INGREDIENTS
- 500g carrots
- 600g potatoes
- 1 bulb of garlic
- 5 sprigs of fresh rosemary
- olive oil
- 1 x 1.6kg whole free-range chicken
- 1 lemon
- 5 sprigs of fresh thyme

EQUIPMENT
- Chopping board
- Knife
- Speed-peeler
- Large roasting tray
- Tongs
- Tin foil
- Tea towel
- Carving knife

JAMIE’S TOP TIP
The beauty of cooking the whole bird, is you’ll have leftovers for more meals later in the week – shred the meat into stir-fries or sandwiches or boil up the carcass for chicken soup.
Preheat the oven to 220°C/425°F/gas 7.

Scrub, trim and halve the carrots lengthways.

Scrub, peel and halve the potatoes, quartering any larger ones. Add to a large roasting tray.

Break the garlic bulb into cloves, leaving them unpeeled, then lightly crush with the flat side of a knife. Pick the rosemary leaves, discarding the stalks. Add the garlic and rosemary leaves to the tray.

Drizzle with oil, season with sea salt and black pepper, then toss well and spread out in an even layer.

Rub the chicken all over with a pinch of salt and pepper and a drizzle of oil. Stuff the chicken cavity with the whole lemon and the thyme sprigs.

Place the chicken in the tray, on top of the vegetables.

Reduce the oven temperature to 200°C/400°F/gas 6, then add the chicken and roast for 45 minutes.

Carefully remove the tray from the oven, use tongs to turn the vegetables over, then spoon any juices from the tray over the chicken.

Return the tray to the oven for a further 30 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through. To check, pierce a chicken thigh with the tip of a sharp knife – if the juices run clear, it’s done. Otherwise return the tray to the oven, cook for a little while longer and repeat the test.

Once cooked, transfer the chicken to a board and return the vegetables to the oven for a final 5 minutes to crisp up, if needed.

Cover the chicken with a layer of tin foil and a tea towel, then leave to rest for 10 to 15 minutes.

Using a sharp carving knife, carve up the chicken, then serve with the roasted veg. Delicious with a green salad on the side.

NOTES

Recipe © Jamie Oliver. Photo © James Lynsay