

From the Kitchen of Janice Feuer Haugen

Vietnamese Dipping Sauce (Nuoc Cham)

Adapted from *The Best of Vietnamese & Thai Cooking* by Mai Pham. Slightly sweet and sour, serve this dipping sauce with most Vietnamese foods.

Makes 1½ cups

1 medium clove garlic, very finely minced

1/2 Serrano chili, without seeds, finely minced

1/2 teaspoon Thai green chili paste

1/4 cup fish sauce

2/3 cup hot water

2 tablespoons fresh lime juice and pulp

2 tablespoons honey

2 tablespoons grated carrots and/or chopped roasted peanuts for garnish

Combine the chili paste, fish sauce, hot water, lime juice and pulp and honey in a small bowl. Stir in the minced garlic and chili. Alternatively, place these ingredients in a blender and blend till almost smooth.

Place the sauce in dipping bowls. Garnish it with the grated carrots and/or chopped peanuts.

