## **CAULIFLOWER RICE-STUFFED PEPPERS**

**Intermediate Lifestyle** 

## **INGREDIENTS**

4 large bell peppers (about 2 pounds)
2 cups small cauliflower florets
(or 1 cup already-riced cauliflower)
2 TBS extra-virgin olive oil, divided
Pinch of salt plus 1/2 TSP, divided
Pinch of ground pepper plus 1/4 TSP, divided

½ cup chopped onion
1 pound lean ground beef
2 cloves garlic, minced
½ TSP dried oregano
1 (8 ounce) can no-salt-added tomato sauce
½ cup (8 TBS) shredded part-skim mozzarella

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

- —Preheat oven to 350°F.
- —Slice off stem ends of bell peppers. Cut the flesh from the stem and chop. You should have about 1 cup. Scoop out seeds from pepper cavities. Bring about an inch of water to a boil in a large pot fitted with a steamer basket. Steam peppers until they start to soften, about 3 minutes. Remove peppers from pot and set aside.
- —Pulse cauliflower in a food processor until broken down into rice-size pieces. Heat 1 TBS oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the cauliflower rice and a pinch each of salt and pepper. Cook, stirring, until softened and starting to brown, about 3 minutes. Transfer to a small bowl.
- —Wipe out the pan. Add remaining 1 TBS oil, the chopped bell pepper and onion. Cook, stirring, until starting to soften, about 3 minutes. Add beef, garlic, oregano and remaining 1/2 TSP salt and 1/4 TSP pepper. Cook, stirring and breaking up the beef with a wooden spoon just until no longer pink, about 5 minutes. Add tomato sauce and cauliflower rice; stir to coat.
- —Place peppers upright in an 8-inch square baking dish. Fill each pepper with a generous 1 cup of the cauliflower rice mixture. Top each pepper with 2 TBS cheese.
- —Bake until the filling is heated through and the cheese is melted, 20 to 25 minutes.

**SERVING INFO:** (Serves 4) - 1 stuffed pepper = 1 P, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  V,  $\frac{1}{2}$  M,  $\frac{1}{2}$  FT

See photo of recipe at Instagram and Facebook.