HERD AND GARLIC BAKED CAMEMBERT

Prepared by: Laura Lutz, March 2019 Source: Smitten Kitchen Every Day

One 8-to-9-oz (225-to-255-g) wheel Camembert
1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
1 tsp (5 mL) minced fresh thyme leaves
1 tsp (5 mL) minced fresh rosemary leaves
1/4 tsp (1 mL) kosher salt
1/4 tsp (1 mL) ground black pepper
1 large garlic clove, sliced very thin

Crackers, preferably long enough to dip with, for serving

Heat the oven to 350°F (180°C).

Assemble: Most Camembert comes in a little wooden crate. If yours does, remove the crate lid and any packaging or wrappers around the cheese, and place it back inside the basket. Yes, it is safe to bake it right in there for the short time that this recipe calls for. If you're nervous about leakage, you can wrap the Camembert in foil or line the basket with parchment paper as a layer of protection. Place the cheese in the wooden crate on a baking tray.

With a thin sharp knife, make gridlike cuts in the cheese, 3 or 4 in each direction, about 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart and going about 1 inch (2.5 cm) deep into the cheese but without cutting through the bottom rind. Use your knife tip to "open" each cut and your fingers to press a little sliver of garlic into each cut. Combine the olive oil with the thyme, rosemary, salt, and pepper in a small dish. Spread thickly on top of the cheese. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, until the cheese is loose inside the rind. Serve immediately with crackers.

Laura's Notes: "This was super easy. I LOVED this and will make it again!"

