



SERVES 4 TO 6 / 40 MINUTES

2 garlic cloves

Middle Eastern *kofta* kebabs (spiced ground lamb or beef shaped around skewers) are delicious, but a bit of a project. Here, a similar spice blend flavors a weeknight-friendly burger.

1½ tsp. kosher salt
1 tsp. grated fresh ginger
½ cup grated onion (use a Microplane)
½ tsp. cayenne
2 tsp. each ground coriander and ground cumin
½ tsp. each ground allspice and pepper
¼ cup finely chopped flat-leaf parsley
1½ lbs. ground beef (at least 20 percent fat for a juicier burger)

Olive oil for brushing pita
3 pita breads
About ¾ cup store-bought tzatziki
Cucumber and tomato slices,
butter lettuce, and fresh mint leaves

- **1.** Heat a gas or charcoal grill to mediumhigh (400°), or heat a stovetop grill pan over medium-high heat.
- 2. Mince garlic with salt, then smash with the flat side of the knife into a paste. Scrape into a large bowl and stir in ginger, onion, cayenne, coriander, cumin, allspice, pepper, and parsley until thoroughly combined.
- **3.** Add ground beef. With your hands, gently mix.
- **4.** Shape mixture into 6 oblong patties that will each fit in a pita half, making patties about ³/₄ in. thick. Oil cooking grate, using tongs and a wad of oiled paper towels. Grill patties until well browned and just pink inside, 4 to 5 minutes per side.
- 5. Cut pita breads in half crosswise.
 Gently loosen the halves to form pockets.
 Brush each with oil and add to grill.
 Toast pita until pale golden and crisp,
 1 to 2 minutes. Spread inside of each
 pocket with 1 to 2 tbsp. tzatziki. Tuck
 burger inside, followed by cucumber,
 tomato, lettuce, and mint leaves.

-Kate Washington

PER SERVING 317 Cal., 42% (133 Cal.) from fat; 24 g protein; 15 g fat (5.3 g sat.); 20 g carbo (1.4 g fiber); 603 mg sodium; 70 mg chol. LC