## Spicy Lasagna Soup

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb hot or mild Italian sausage, removed from casings
- 1 lb lean ground beef
- 1 large onion, diced
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 (28 oz) can of crushed tomatoes
- 1 (13.8 oz) container of Pomi's crushed tomatoes with chili peppers
- 1 (4.6 oz) tube of Pomi's double concentrated tomato paste
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1 tsp fennel seeds
- 2 tsp thyme
- 1 tsp oregano
- 1 tsp basil
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 (16 oz) box of lasagna noodles (broken into bite-size pieces) or Mafalda pasta
- 1 cup mozzarella, shredded
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup pepper jack cheese, shredded
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup heavy whipping cream
- Ricotta cheese, Parmesan cheese, and fresh parsley, optional

## INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Heat the olive oil in a large dutch oven over high heat. Add the onion and cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in the garlic and cook for 1 minute.
- 2. Add the meat and sausage. Season with salt, pepper, and red pepper flakes. Cook, breaking up the meat as it cooks until browned all over, 10 minutes.
- 3. Once the meat is cooked through, pour in the chicken broth, crushed tomatoes, fennel seed, thyme, oregano, basil, bay leaves salt, and pepper. Simmer on low for 20 minutes.
- 4. While the soup is cooking, prepare the lasagna noodles in a separate pot according to the package directions. Drain and add back to the pot after adding the cheeses and whipping cream. Remove bay leaves.
- 5. Ladle the soup into bowls and serve topped with ricotta, parmesan, and fresh parsley. Enjoy!

If you prefer a milder soup, switch out hot Italian sausage with mild, eliminate the red pepper flacks, and use Monterey jack cheese instead of pepper jack.