Crispy Chipotle Chicken Tacos with Avocado Ranch Sauce

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INGREDIENTS

Avocado Ranch Sauce:

- 1 ripe avocado
- 1 jalapeño, seeds removed and chopped
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, packed
- 1/4 cup buttermilk
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- Juice of 1 lime
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Tacos:

- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 pound ground chicken
- 1 chipotle pepper in adobo sauce, finely chopped, plus 2 tablespoons adobo sauce

- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 3 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 8 small corn tortillas
- Fresh cilantro leaves, for garnish

METHOD

Avocado Ranch Sauce:

- 1. In a food processor or blender, combine avocado, jalapeño, garlic, cilantro, buttermilk, sour cream, and lime juice. Blend until smooth.
- 2. Season with salt and pepper.
- 3. Transfer the sauce to an airtight container and refrigerate until ready to use.

Tacos:

- 1. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add chopped onion and cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Add minced garlic and cook for an additional minute.
- 2. Add ground chicken to the skillet and cook, breaking it up with a wooden spoon, until no longer pink, about 8 minutes.
- 3. Stir in chopped chipotle pepper, adobo sauce, chili powder, and cumin. Season with salt and pepper. Remove from heat.
- 4. In a small nonstick skillet over medium heat, sprinkle about 1/4 cup of shredded cheddar cheese in a circle, approximately the size of your tortillas. Place a tortilla on top of the cheese.
- 5. Spoon some of the chicken filling onto one half of the tortilla and sprinkle about 2 tablespoons of shredded cheese on the other half.
- 6. Cook until the cheese on the bottom starts to crisp, about 4 minutes. Use a rubber spatula to fold the half with cheese over the chicken, pressing gently to seal the taco.
- 7. Cook until warmed through, about 1 minute, then flip and continue cooking until the other side is warmed through, about 1 minute more.
- 8. Transfer the cooked taco to a plate and repeat with the remaining tortillas and filling.
- 9. Top the tacos with fresh cilantro leaves and serve with the avocado ranch sauce on the side.