Minted Sweet Pea and Spinach Soup

(3 quarts, serves 10-12)

Ingredients:

8 tbsp sweet (unsalted) butter
4 cups finely chopped yellow onions
20 oz frozen chopped spinach, defrosted
6 cups chicken stock
20 oz frozen peas, defrosted
1 bunch fresh mint
2 cups heavy cream
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Directions:

Melt the butter in a pot.

Add the chopped onions, cover and cook over low heat until tender and lightly colored – about 25 minutes. Meanwhile, drain the spinach and squeeze out excess liquid. Pour the stock into the pot, stir in the peas and spinach and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, partially covered, until peas are tender – about 20 minutes. Pull the mint leaves from their stems; there should be 4 cups of loosely packed leaves. Rinse thoroughly and pat dry. When peas are tender, add mint to the pot, cover, and simmer for another 5 minutes. Pour the soup through a strainer, reserving liquid, and transfer the solids to the bowl of a food processor fitted with a steel blade (or use a food mill fitted with a medium disc). Add 1 cup of the cooking stock, and process until smooth. Return pureed soup to the pot. Add heavy cream and additional cooking liquid, about 1 cup, until the soup is of the desired consistency. Season to taste with salt and pepper, simmer briefly to heat through, and serve immediately.