Mustard-crusted Pork and Pears

Rub

- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves with tender stems
- 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons yellow or black mustard seed
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon black peppercorns

Marinade

- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 teaspoons seasoned rice vinegar

Also

- 2 pork tenderloins, each ³/₄ to 1 pound, trimmed of excess fat and silver skin
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 ripe pears, each cut lengthwise in half and cored

Instructions

- 1. In a spice mill (or using a mortar and pestle) whirl (or pound) the rub ingredients until they are coarsely ground. Transfer the mixture to a bowl. Reserve about 4 teaspoons of the rub for the pears.
- 2. In a medium bowl whisk the marinade ingredients. Place the pork tenderloins in a large resealable plastic bag and pour in the marinade. Press the air out of the bag and seal tightly. Turn the bag to distribute the marinade. Place on a plate and marinate at room temperature for 30 minutes.
- 3. Prepare the grill for direct cooking over medium heat (350° to 450°F).
- 4. Remove the pork from the bag and discard the marinade. Lightly brush the pork with oil and season evenly with the rub.
- 5. Lightly brush the pears with oil and season the cut sides with the reserved rub.
- 6. Brush the cooking grates clean. Grill the pork over *direct medium heat*, with the lid closed, until the outsides are evenly seared and the centers are barely pink, 15 to 20 minutes, turning three times. During the last 8 to 10 minutes of grilling time, grill the pears, cut side down first, over *direct medium heat*, until they are lightly charred and tender, turning once. Remove the pork and the pears from the grill and let the pork rest for 3 to 5 minutes. Cut the pork into ½-inch slices. Serve warm with the pears.

