Asiago Chicken Spread

from Taste of Home's Best Holiday Recipes

3/4 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1/2-inch cubes

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon *pepper* 

2 tablespoons *butter* 

2 garlic cloves, minced

1/3 cup salted cashew halves

1/3 cup mayonnaise

1/2 cup chopped onion

1/4 cup shredded Asiago cheese

1/4 cup *minced fresh basil* 

1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce

Assorted crackers or toasted baguette slices

Season chicken with salt and pepper. In a large skillet, saute chicken in butter for 5-6 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Stir in cashews. Remove from the heat; cool.

In a food processor, combine the mayonnaise, onion, cheese, basil, pepper sauce and chicken mixture; cover and process until blended. Press into a 2-cup bowl; cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours.

If desired, unmold onto a serving platter; serve with crackers or baguette slices. Yield: 2 cups.