Bittersweet Chocolate Pudding

yields 6 to 8 5-ounce portions

Ingredients

1 cup granulated sugar

1 pinch kosher salt
4 tablespoons cornstarch
5 cup cocoa powder
2 ½ cups whole milk, divided

4 each egg yolks (Grade A large)

½ cup heavy cream 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

4 ounces bittersweet chocolate (66-72%)

Procedure

Place sugar and salt in large heatproof bowl. Sift cornstarch and cocoa into bowl. Add ½ cup milk and stir the mixture to make a thick paste.

In a small bowl, beat egg yolks. Add yolks to the cornstarch mixture, whisking together to blend. Place a damp towel underneath the bowl to secure it on the counter and reserve mixture.

In a heavy bottom saucepan, combine cream and remaining 2 cups milk. Bring just to hubb a boil, and then remove pot from heat. Carefully pour about one-quarter of the hot liquid into the cornstarch mixture, whisking constantly. Continue to whisk the milk-cream mixture into the bowl slowly, until all of the liquid has been incorporated and the custard is smooth. Rinse out the pot that was used to heat the milk and cream but do not dry it completely. Pour the custard into the clean pot and add the vanilla.

Set aside a mixing bowl with a mesh strainer or sieve on top of it.

Return the pot to the stove. Cook over low-medium heat while stirring with a high heat rubber spatula or wooden spoon until the custard thickens, about 5-6 minutes. (The custard will look a bit lumpy.) Pour through the strainer or sieve into the bowl, using the spatula to press the hot custard through. Remove the strainer. Add half of the chopped chocolate to the mixing bowl, stirring gently with the spatula until chocolate is completely melted. Add remaining chocolate and stir gently with the spatula until chocolate is completely melted.

Portion the warm pudding into custard cups or ramekins. Wrap each in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 6 hours or overnight.

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Bread Pudding

<u>Ingredients</u>

1 tablespoon unsalted butter, softened/room temperature

6 each whole eggs (Grade A large)
4 each egg yolks (Grade A large)

2 cups heavy cream
1 cup whole milk
2 tablespoons vanilla extract

2 cups granulated sugar - (Am WA WWK

½ teaspoon kosher salt

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

4 ounces stale/dried French bread (croissants or brioche work well), cut into

1-inch cubes (many to work to both of 8.5/11 in pan)

Procedure

Preheat oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit. Brush the inside of a casserole dish (approximately 8" x 11") with the butter and set aside.

To a large stainless steel mixing bowl, add eggs and egg yolks and whisk together. Add cream, milk, and vanilla.

In another bowl, mix together sugar, salt, and cinnamon. Add to the cream mixture.

Place the stale cubed bread into the prepared casserole dish. Pour the liquid over the bread. Allow the bread to soak up the liquid for at least 15-20 minutes, pressing the bread down with a spatula every 2-3 minutes. Cover the dish with foil and place into a large roasting pan. Fill the roasting pan with enough water to reach half-way up the side of the casserole dish. Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour. Remove foil and continue to bake until top of the pudding is golden brown, about 20-30 minutes. (It should be slightly puffy in the center of the dish.) Allow the pudding to cool at room temperature for approximately 20-30 minutes.

To serve immediately, use a paring knife to cut the pudding in the pan and remove the pieces with a spatula. Serve with chocolate, caramel, or a classic custard sauce. The pudding may be stored in the refrigerator for 2-3 days.

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Warm Arborio Rice Pudding

yields 4 to 6 8-ounce portions

Ingredients

3/4 CUD

Arborio rice

3 cups

whole milk

1/2 CUP

(1ctapioca) granulated sugar

zest of 1 orange

1 each

vanilla bean, split lengthwise and scraped

Procedure

In a heavy bottom saucepan, combine all ingredients. Place the pot over medium-low heat and stir. When small bubbles begin to form on the side of the pan, reduce the heat to low. Cover and let cook for 30 minutes, stirring every 5 minutes with a spoon or rubber spatula, until the mixture becomes thick and creamy and rice is completely tender. Remove from heat.

Spoon pudding into fun 8-ounce bowls, martini glasses, or large double old-fashioned (rocks) glasses. Sprinkle with ground pistachios or drizzle a bit of Grand Marnier on top.

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Butterscotch Custard Pudding

yields 6 4- to 5-ounce servings

<u>Ingredients</u>

4 tablespoons

unsalted butter

1 cup

dark brown sugar

2.5 cups

heavy cream, divided

1.5 cups ½ teaspoon whole milk kosher salt

1 each

vanilla bean, split lengthwise and scraped

8 each

egg yolks (Grade A large)

Procedure

In a small saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add brown sugar and stir until melted and smooth. Stir in 1 cup of heavy ream and reserve.

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In a medium, heavy bottom saucepan, whisk together remaining heavy cream, milk, salt, reserved brown sugar mixture, and vanilla bean. Bring to a simmer over low-medium heat.

In a small bowl, whisk the yolks until smooth. Remove brown sugar mixture from heat. Add a small amount of the brown sugar mixture into the yolks to temper the yolks. Then, pour the yolk mixture into the brown sugar mixture, whisking constantly. Strain the mixture through a fine mesh sieve. Chill strained mixture in an ice bath for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit.

Pour chilled mixture into 6 4- to 5-ounce ramekins. Arrange the filled ramekins in a 2- to 3-inch deep roasting pan or casserole dish. Place in preheated oven. Fill the pan with enough hot water (from the tap) to reach one-third- to half-way up the sides of the ramekins. Cover the pan with foil and use a paring knife to poke 4 small holes in the foil. Bake the custards for 25 minutes. Peel back the foil to just allow the steam to escape. Re-cover and continue to bake until the custards are set around the edges but still jiggle a bit in the centers, about 10-15 minutes. Carefully remove pan from oven and remove hot ramekins from pan. Allow custard to cool at room temperature for at least 20 minutes. Wrap each in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 6 hours or overnight.

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