Cooking and Chatting

Menu

- Bubbly Mandarin Delight Cocktail (Pg 3)
- Grandma's Crepes with Maple Syrup and Ginger Whipped Cream (Pg 4)
- French Toast with Fresh Fruit Compote (Pg 6)
- Eggs Benedict on Toasted English Muffins served with Ham and Bacon (Pg 7)
- Cranberry Spinach Salad (Pg 9)
- English Sausage Bake with Peppers and Onions (Pg 10)
- Chocolate and Coconut Bliss Balls (Pg 11)
- Coffee & Tea

Shopping List

For 10 hungry people. Please adjust!

•	Almonds, slivered	125g
•	Bacon or ham	10 strips
•	Bell peppers, green	8
•	Bell peppers, red	3
•	Bread, thick sliced	10 slices
•	Butter	250g pack
_	Chickon stock	

- Chicken stock
- Cinnamon, ground (optional)
- Cocoa powder

•	Cranberries, dried	150g
•	Cream	1 cup

- Crystallised ginger
- Dark chocolate
- Dessicated coconut

•	Dried fruits	1.5 cups
•	English muffins	5
•	Flour	1 cup

Italian seasoning

Large eggs Two dozen
Lemon juice 1/4 cup
Mandarins 20
Milk 1 litre

Nutmeg, ground (optional)

Nuts and seeds
 1.5 cups

Olive oil

Christmas Brunch

Cooking and Chatting

- Onions 4
- Paprika
- Parsley
- Pepper
- Poppy seeds
- Rum
- Salt
- Sausage links 1kg
- Sesame seeds, toasted
- Soda water
- Sparkling wine
- Spinach 2-3 bunches
- Sugar
- Sugar
- Sugar syrup
- Vanilla extract
- Vegetable oil
- White pepper, ground
- White vinegar
- White wine
- White wine vinegar
- Worcestershire sauce

Christmas Brunch

Cooking and Chatting

Bubbly Mandarin Delight Cocktail

Ingredients

- 3 cups mandarin juice (from about 20 mandarins)
- Chilled sparkling wine
- Soda water
- Sugar syrup

Directions

- 1. Juice Mandarins in juicer or by hand
- 2. Mix equal parts of mandarin juice and sparkling wine/ or soda water.
- 3. If you want it a little stronger or are running low on mandarins you can use one part juice to two parts bubbly.
- 4. Add a dash of sugar syrup if you have a sweet tooth!
- 5. Serve immediately.

Christmas Brunch

Cooking and Chatting

Grandma's Crepes with Maple Syrup and Ginger Whipped Cream

Prep time: 5 min

Waiting: 45 min-1 hour

Cook time: 20 min

Servings: 15 to 20 crepes

Ingredients

4 large eggs

- 1/2 litre of milk
- Pinch of salt
- 1 cup flour (250 grams)
- 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil
- Dash of rum
- Butter, for coating the pan

Directions

- 1. In a blender, combine all of the ingredients and pulse for 10 seconds.
- 2. Place the crepe batter in the refrigerator for 1 hour. This allows the bubbles to subside so the crepes will be less likely to tear during cooking.
- 3. Heat a small non-stick pan. Add butter to coat.
- 4. Pour a small amount of batter into the centre of the pan and swirl to spread evenly.
- 5. Cook for 30 seconds and flip.
- 6. Cook for another 10 seconds and remove to the cutting board.
- 7. Lay them out flat so they can cool.
- 8. Continue until all batter is gone.
- 9. Serve with fresh lemon juice and sugar, or maple syrup and ginger cream.
- (After crepes have cooled you can stack them and store in sealable plastic bags in the refrigerator for several days or in the freezer for up to two months)
- *Savoury Variation Add 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 cup chopped fresh herbs, spinach or sun-dried tomatoes to the egg mixture.
- *Sweet Variation Add 21/2 tablespoons sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract and about a tablespoon of your favourite liqueur to the egg mixture.

Ginger Cream

Prep time: 5 min Serving: 2 cups

Christmas Brunch

Cooking and Chatting

Ingredients:

- 1 cup chilled whipping cream
- 1 1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons chopped crystallised ginger

Directions

- 1. Beat chilled whipping cream with sugar and vanilla extract in bowl to soft peaks.
- 2. Stir in chopped crystallised ginger.
- 3. Keep in fridge until ready to serve.

Christmas Brunch

Cooking and Chatting

French Toast with Fresh Fruit Compote

Prep Time: 5 min Cook Time: 15 min Servings: 10

Ingredients:

- 10 thick slices bread
- 4 eggs
- 1-1/3 cups milk
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg (optional)
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract (optional)
- salt to taste

Directions:

- 1. Beat or whisk together egg, milk, salt, desired spices and vanilla.
- 2. Heat a lightly oiled frypan or griddle over medium-high flame.
- 3. Dunk each slice of bread in egg mixture, soaking both sides.
- 4. Place in pan, and cook on both sides until golden.
- 5. Serve hot with Fresh Fruit Compote

Cooking and Chatting

Eggs Benedict on Toasted English Muffins served with Ham and Bacon

Prep Time: 25 min Cook Time: 5 Minutes

Servings: 10

<u>Ingredients:</u>

- 5 egg yolks
- 1/4 cup and 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1-1/4 pinches ground white pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon and 3/4 teaspoon water
- 1-1/4 cups butter, melted
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 10 eggs
- 1-1/4 teaspoons white vinegar
- 10 strips bacon or Ham
- 5 English muffins, split
- 2 tablespoons and 1-1/2 teaspoons butter
- Parsley for garnish

Directions:

Hollandaise Sauce

- 1. Fill the bottom of a double boiler part-way with water. Make sure that water does not touch the top pan. Bring water to a gentle simmer.
- 2. In the top of the double boiler, whisk together egg yolks, lemon juice, white pepper, Worcestershire sauce, and 1 tablespoon water.
- 3. Add the melted butter to egg yolk mixture 1 or 2 tablespoons at a time while whisking yolks constantly.
- 4. If hollandaise begins to get too thick, add a teaspoon or two of hot water.
- 5. Continue whisking until all butter is incorporated.
- 6. Whisk in salt, then remove from heat.
- 7. Place a lid on pan to keep sauce warm.

Poached Eggs:

- 1. Fill a large saucepan with 3 inches of water. Bring water to a gentle simmer, then add vinegar.
- 2. Carefully break eggs into simmering water, and allow to cook for 2 1/2 to 3 minutes. Yolks should still be soft in centre.
- 3. Remove eggs from water with a slotted spoon and set on a warm plate.

Christmas Brunch

Cooking and Chatting

- 4. While eggs are poaching, brown the bacon in a frypan over medium-high heat and toast the English muffins.
- 5. Spread toasted muffins with butter and top each one with a slice of bacon or ham, followed by a poached egg.
- 6. Place muffin on plate and drizzle with hollandaise sauce.
- 7. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve immediately.

Christmas Brunch

Cooking and Chatting

Cranberry Spinach Salad

Prep Time: 10 min Cook Time: 10 min Servings: 10

Ingredients:

- 20 g butter
- 125 g slivered almonds
- 2-3 bunches of spinach, rinsed and torn into bite-size pieces
- 150 g dried cranberries
- 20 g toasted sesame seeds
- 10 g poppy seeds
- 125 g white sugar
- 1/2 medium onion- minced
- pinch of paprika
- 150 ml white wine vinegar
- 150 ml vegetable oil

Directions:

- 1. In a medium saucepan, melt butter over medium heat.
- 2. Cook and stir almonds in butter until lightly toasted.
- 3. Remove from heat, and let cool.
- 4. In a medium bowl, whisk together the sesame seeds, poppy seeds, sugar, onion, paprika, white wine vinegar, cider vinegar, and vegetable oil.
- 5. Toss with spinach just before serving.
- 6. In a large bowl, combine the spinach with the toasted almonds and cranberries.

Cooking and Chatting

English Sausage Bake with Peppers and Onions

Prep Time: 20 min Cook Time: 45 min Servings: 10

<u>Ingredients</u>

- 10 ml olive oil
- 1 kg sausage links, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 75 ml olive oil
- 8 green bell peppers, seeded and cut into wedges
- 3 large red bell peppers, seeded andcut into wedges
- 3 large onions, cut into wedges
- 150 ml white wine
- 150 ml chicken stock
- 2 g Italian seasoning
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions

- 1. Preheat oven to 200 degrees C.
- 2. Heat 2 teaspoons olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat, and cook and stir the sausage until browned. Transfer the cooked sausage to a large baking dish.
- 3. Cook and stir the green and red peppers and onions in the hot skillet until they are beginning to soften, about 5 minutes.
- 4. Add the vegetables to the baking dish.
- 5. Pour wine and chicken stock over the vegetables and sausage, and sprinkle with Italian seasoning, salt, and pepper. Gently stir the sausage and vegetables together.
- 6. Bake in the preheated oven until hot and bubbling, 20 to 25 minutes.
- 7. Serve hot.

Christmas Brunch

Cooking and Chatting

Chocolate and Coconut Bliss Balls

Prep time: 20 min Servings: 30 - 40 balls

<u>Ingredients</u>

- 1 ½ cups of nuts and seeds (any nuts or seeds work well -sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, peanuts, almonds, walnuts, cashews etc)
- 1 ½ cups of dried fruits

 (any dried fruits but especially moist fruits such as dates, prunes or raisins cranberries, blueberries and mango work well too)
- 1 tablespoon of cacao or cocoa powder
- Carob nibs or dark chocolate chopped finely or processed in blender
- ½ teaspoon of vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tablespoons of water or coconut oil (or as needed)
- Dessicated coconut to roll the balls in.

Directions

- 1. Place the nuts and salt in the food processor and process until finely ground remove and but a large bowl.
- 2. Chop the dried fruits into small pieces and place in the food processor/ Process until the mixture becomes sticky and add to nut mixture
- 3. Add the cacao powder and chopped chocolate and mix with hands until the mixture is well blended adding coconut oil and/ or a little water as needed.
- 4. When the mixture reaches a firm but moist consistency mould into round balls (golf ball size) and roll in the coconut.
- 5. Place on a tray and put in the freezer until firm about 10 mins.
- 6. Can be stored in the fridge or freezer for up to a month.

Quantity Reference

1 teaspoon ≈ 5ml 1 tablespoon ≈ 15ml 1 cup ≈ 250ml