## Cookbook

### Start early on holiday fruitcakes

With Thanksgiving past, the ¼ c. orange juice family baker looks forward to pre- ¼ c. brandy or sh paring for the Christmas season. The Christmas season is renowned for its delicious cookies, pastries, fruitcakes and homemade confections. To help you get started on your holiday fruitcake this year, I have three recipes you may want to Christmas Fruitcake Candy, Gold Fruitcake and Old English Fruitcake.

Christmas Fruitcake Candy or PanForte DiSiena is actually a cross between a fruitcake and candy. Panforte (strong bread) from Siena is solid with whole nuts. This is traditionally served in small wedges with expresso, tea, brandy, or dessert wine. PanForte can be made ahead of time and stored indefinitely in an airtight container.

Gold Fruitcake is a favorite at the Kingsbury's house. Although I have tried numerous fruitcake recipes, my husband Bill likes this one best. A light fruitcake, this cake is flavored with fruit soaked in brandy or serrry. This recipe makes four pounds of cake, but don't be surprised if your family asks for more.

Old English Fruitcake is the traditional dark fruitcake full of candied fruit, raisins, currants, dates and nuts. Either rum or brandy is used to flavor Old English Fruitcake as well as strong coffee. For extra flavoring, each cake can be wrapped in a cloth moistened in brandy, then wrap individually in two layers of foil, sealing to make airtight. Age at least one month. Chill before slicing.

To insure perfect fruitcake, here are a few tips. Cool fruitcakes in pans, then turn out. Store cakes in foil, clear plastic wrap or in an airtight container. If you wrap cakes in brandy, wine or fruit juice mosten the cloth once a week.

Good luck with your holiday fruit-cake. Better hurry! Christmas is less than a month away CHRISTMAS FRUITCAKE

CANDY PANFORTE DI SIENA

2½ T. butter or margarine 2 c. whole unblanched almonds or 1

c. each whole unblanched almonds and filberts 1 c. candied orange peel, coarsely

1 c. candied lemon peel, minced 1 t. each grated lemon peel and

ground cinnamon t. ground coriander t. ground cloves

1/4 t. ground nutmeg 2 c. all purpose flour

4 c. granulated sugar 3/4 c. honey

Powdered sugar Heavily butter bottom and sides of an 8 or 9 inch cake pan with removable bottom. Line bottom with brown paper, then butter paper and dust with flour; set aside. In a bowl, mix almonds with candied orange peel, candied lemon peel grated lemon peel, cinnamon, cor-

iander, cloves, nutmeg and flour until flour coats each particle. In a deep pan over high heat combine sugar, honey and 2 table-spoons butter. Stirring frequently cook quickly to 265 (hard-ball stage) on a candy thermometer. Pour hot syrup into almond mixture and mix thoroughly. Pour into prepared cake

pan and spread evenly Bake in a 300 degree oven for 45 minutes, then cool thoroughly. Panforte should be firm to touch. Loosen sides of cake from pan with a knife, then invert cake onto a large sheet of wax paper heavily

dusted with powdered sugar Remove pan bottom and brown paper, cutting away paper, if necessary. Heavily dust top of panforte with more powedered sugar to coat completely. Serve immediately or wrap air tight to store indefinitely. Serve in small wedges. Makes about 21/2 lb. confection

GOLD FRUIT CAKE

½ c. currants ½ c. white raisins

½ c. dates

½ c. candied cherries 1½ c. candied fruit (mixed) 1/2 c. honey



#### **Baby Welcome**

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1/4 c. brandy or sherry Combine all ingredients. Cover in bowl, refrigerate overnight.

3/4 c. butter 3/4 c. sugar

2 c. flour ½ t. baking soda

t. nutmeg

1 t. vanilla

Scant amount salt 1 t. ginger

1½ c. walnuts Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs well beaten, and mix. Add flour sifted with soda and spices.

Add flavoring, nuts and fruit mixture. Blend well. Pour into loaf or tube pans, lined with heavy brown paper. Grease pans before lining with paper. Bake in a slow oven 275-300 degrees for 3 hours for large pan,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours for loaf pans. Makes 4 lb. fruitcake.

OLD ENGLISH FRUITCAKE

2 c. butter 1 lb. br. sugar 12 eggs, separated

2 t. each cinnamon, mace, cloves 1 t. each allspice, nutmeg, salt

1 lb. mixed candied fruit 1 lb. chandied cherries

1 lb. seeded raisins 1 lb seedless raisins 1 lb. currants

1 lb. pitted dates, cut in pieces

1 lb. dices citron, optional 1 lb. broken walnuts

1 c. rum or brandy

½ c. double-strength coffee Grated peel and juice of 3 med. sized oranges Grated peel and juice of 1 lemon Brandy or rum

Cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add wellbeaten egg yolks and stir vigorously until smooth and creamy.

Sift flour, measure and sift with spices. Combine candied fruit, cherries, seeded raisins, seedless raisins, currants, dates, citron and walnuts. Mix lightly with one cup flour. Add remaining flour to batter, blending alternately with mixture of rum, coffee and fruit peel and juices. Add fruit and nut mixture and mix well.

Beat egg whites until they hold stiff peaks, then fold into batter. Butter 4 loaf pans (5x9 inch size). line with brown paper and butter again. Spoon batter into pans. Bake in a 250 degree oven for about 3 hours, 30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center of cakes comes out clean. Have a shallow pan of water in bottom of oven.

Set cakes in pans on wire racks to cool; remove from pan. Wrap each cake in a cloth moistened in brandy. Wrap individually in 2 layers of foil: sealing to make airtight. Age at least 1 month. chill before slicing. Makes 4 cakes.



**Future bakers** 

Students at the Dallas Senior High School recently participated in a Cake Decorating Contest. Shown here are some of the future bakers. From left, first row, Ray Eppley, Karen Schooley, Rick Stritzinger, John Emil, Tim Finnegan. Second row, Rob Musto, Tina Turpak, Christi Strauser, Michelle Viveney and T.J. Bagley.



Great gift idea

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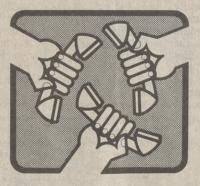
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