Deconstructed Pumpkin-Bourbon Cannoli
Marcia A. Friedman

Title

15 minutes
1 hour 15 minutes
6 cups

Prep Time
Cook Time
Serves

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE FILLING
16 oz (1 container) whole-milk ricotta
1/4 cup mascarpone 2 1/2 tbsp superfine sugar
2 tsp vanilla extract 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg 1/8 tsp ground allspice
1/8 tsp ground ginger 1/3 cup canned pumpkin

FOR THE PASTRY HOUNDS
2 cups all-purpose flour 2 tbsp sugar

FOR THE TOPPING
1 tsp baking soda 2 tsp cornstarch
1/2 tsp unsweetened cocoa powder 1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp kosher salt 2 tbsp vegetable shortening
2 tsp vanilla extract 1 tbsp white wine vinegar
1/4 cup bourbon or brandy Vegetable oil, for frying
2 tbsp confectioners’ sugar 2 tbsp ground cinnamon

Whipped cream garnish, optional
**Directions**

1) To drain the ricotta, place it in a fine-mesh strainer lined with a large double-layer piece of cheesecloth. Place the strainer over a large bowl. Wrap the ricotta tightly in the cloth, squeezing to start extracting liquid. Place the heavy bowl on top and refrigerate for at least one hour. 2) Discard the liquid and transfer the ricotta to a large bowl. Add the mascarpone, sugar, and vanilla. Beat with an electric mixer on medium speed for about 2 minutes, until smooth and slightly fluffy. On low speed, mix in the cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, ginger, and pumpkin. Refrigerate the mixture at least 30 minutes, or until ready to serve. 3) Meanwhile, make the pastries. Whisk together the flour, sugar, baking soda, cornstarch, cocoa powder, cinnamon, and salt in a large bowl. With the whisk, work in the shortening to create a crumbled texture. In a separate small bowl, combine the vanilla extract, vinegar, and bourbon, then stir the liquids into the flour mixture. Add cold water a teaspoon at a time as needed to create a cohesive dough. Knead about 2 minutes, until smooth. 4) Divide the dough in half. In between sheets of wax paper, roll each half into a circle about 1/8-inch-thick. Let stand covered at room temperature for about 20 minutes. 5) When ready to cook, start heating about 1 1/4 inches of oil to 365°F in a heavy, deep-sided pan. 6) Working with one large dough circle at a time, roll the dough to about 1/16-inch thick. Use a 3-inch cutter to cut circles, rerolling scraps. The dough will tend to contract, so right before frying, roll over the circles with the rolling pin to thin them. You should end up with 20 to 24 rounds. 7) Fry the rounds in small batches to avoid crowding the pan, turning a few times, until brown, 1 to 2 minutes. Transfer to a paper-towel-lined plate to drain and cool completely. 8) Make the sugar topping by combining the confectioners’ sugar and cinnamon. 9) To serve, place one pastry round on a serving dish and top with a generous dollop (3 to 4 tbsp) of pumpkin ricotta filling. Top with another pastry piece, and finish with a dab of whipped cream (if using) or more pumpkin filling. Generously dust the tops with the sugar-cinnamon mixture. Serve immediately.