

Chocolate Easter cake

Preparation time: 30 minutes, plus cooling

Cooking time: 20 minutes

Total time: 50 minutes



Ingredients

175g unsalted butter, softened,
plus extra for greasing
175g light brown soft sugar
3 eggs, at room temperature
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 tbsp whole milk
150g self-raising flour
4 tbsp cocoa
1 pack of mini chocolate eggs

Icing

150g unsalted butter, softened
150g icing sugar
2 tbsp whole milk
1 x ½ tsp vanilla extract
3 tbsp cocoa

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C, gas mark 4. Grease and line the base of 2 x 18cm cake tins with baking parchment. Using electric beaters, cream the butter and sugar in a bowl for 3 - 4 minutes until fluffy. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, then beat in the vanilla and milk.
2. Gently beat in the flour and cocoa, mixing until smooth. Divide the batter between the tins and bake for 20 minutes, until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. Leave the cakes in the tins on a rack to cool.
3. For the icing, beat the butter for 2 minutes until creamy, then beat in the sugar for another 2 minutes. Warm the milk in a small pan, then beat into the butter and sugar with the vanilla and cocoa until smooth.
4. Place one of the cakes on a plate and cover with icing. Sit the second cake on top and cover the top and sides with icing. Scatter the chocolate eggs over the cake and serve.

Silvana Franco, waitrose recipe editor, picks out her favourite Easter bakes: www.waitrose.com/content/waitrose/en/home/recipes/

Fake friends

- ✓ **Balance** – équilibre
- ✓ **Candid** – sincère
- ✓ **Chance** - hasard, risque
- ✓ **Current** – actuel
- ✓ **Deception** – tromperie, duperie
- ✓ **Delay** – retard
- ✓ **Plant** – plante, usine
- ✓ **Positive** – certain, positif
- ✓ **Pretend (to)** – faire semblant

Quote of the month

*'See the land, her Easter keeping, rises as her Maker rose.
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping, burst at last from
winter snows.*

*Earth with heaven above rejoices; Fields and gardens hail
the spring; Shaughs and woodlands ring with voices,
while the wild birds build and sing.*

Easter Week, Charles Kingsley

Your essential vocabulary

- **Gullible** – naïf, crédule
- **Hoax** – canular
- **One cup, 16tb** – ¼ litre, 16 cuillères à soupe
- **One tablespoon (1tb)** – 1 cuillère à soupe
- **One teaspoon (1tsp)** – une cuillère à café
- **Practical joke** – farce
- **Prank** – blague, tour
- **To embarrass** – embarrasser
- **To show** – montrer
- **Two cups, 1 pint** – ½ litre (environ)
- **Four cups, 1 quart** – 9/10 litre (environ)

Translate the following sentences

1. The day is marked by **hoaxes** and **practical jokes**.
2. The aim is to embarrass the **gullible people**.
3. Among the well-known **pranks** is a BBC programme showing Italian workers harvesting spaghetti from trees.
4. In April 1934, The New York Times printed a photograph of a man flying through the air by the means of a device powered only by the breath from his lungs.
5. The first **eggs** given at **Easter** were bird eggs.
6. These eggs were painted in bright colours.
7. Then a chocolate version of the painted egg appeared.