

Coconut Cake



ACTIVE: 30 MIN

TOTAL TIME: 1 HR 15 MIN

SERVINGS: 8 to 10

Coconut cake, a dainty dessert, was in vogue in the 1920s for ladies' gatherings. Traditionally made with marshmallow frosting, the cake was famously served to President Truman during a trip to Florida in the 1950s.

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| 2 1/2 cups cake flour | 1. Preheat the oven to 350°. Butter two 8-inch round cake pans and line the bottoms with parchment paper. Butter and flour the pans, tapping out excess flour. |
| 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder | |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt | 2. In a small bowl, sift the cake flour with the baking powder and salt. In a small pitcher, combine the milk with the coconut milk. In a medium bowl, beat the butter at medium speed until creamy. Slowly add the granulated sugar and beat until light and fluffy, scraping down the sides of the bowl. Add the egg yolks and vanilla and beat until smooth. At low speed, add the dry ingredients in 3 batches, alternating with the milk mixture; beat until smooth. |
| 1/2 cup milk | |
| 1/2 cup unsweetened coconut milk | 3. In another bowl, using clean beaters, beat the egg whites at high speed until firm but not dry. Stir one-third of the beaten whites into the batter until smooth, then fold in the remaining whites until no white streaks remain. |
| 1 stick plus 2 tablespoons (5 ounces) unsalted butter, softened | |
| 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar | 4. Divide the batter evenly between the prepared cake pans and smooth the surfaces. Bake for 35 minutes, or until the tops spring back when lightly pressed and a toothpick inserted into the centers comes out with just a few moist crumbs attached. Let the cakes cool in the pans for 10 minutes, then turn them out onto a wire rack to cool completely. Peel off the parchment paper. |
| 3 large egg yolks | |
| 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract | |
| 5 large egg whites | |
| 1/2 cup seedless raspberry jam | |
| Confectioners' sugar, for dusting | |

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| 2 1/2 cups (7 ounces) freshly grated coconut or shredded sweetened coconut (see Note) | <p>5. Using a sharp serrated knife, cut each cake into 2 even layers. Spread the raspberry jam between the cut layers of each cake and then reassemble. Place one cake on a serving plate, right side up. Tuck 4 wide strips of wax paper under the cake to cover the plate. Spread the frosting liberally over and around the cake. Dust your hands lightly with confectioners' sugar and press the coconut onto the side of the cake. Sprinkle the rest of the coconut on the top. Let the cake stand at room temperature for at least 30 minutes before slicing.</p> |
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