he Blackboard

CHOCOLATE BEETROOT CAKE

Preparation time: 30 minutes Cooking time: 50 minutes Use: 18cm (7in) round cake tin Makes: 8 slices

100g (31/2 oz) drinking chocolate

230g (8oz) self-raising flour

200g (7oz) golden caster sugar

100g (31/2 oz) dark chocolate, minimum 60% cocoa solids, broken into pieces

125g (41/2 oz) unsalted butter

250g (9oz) cooked beetroot

3 large eggs

TO SERVE

icing sugar for dusting crème fraîche

Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4.

Butter and flour the cake tin.

Sift together the drinking chocolate and the selfraising flour, then mix in the sugar. Melt the chocolate and butter together in a heatproof bowl suspended over a saucepan of barely simmering water. Purée the beetroot in a food-processor, whisk the eggs, then stir them into the beetroot. Add the beetroot and the chocolate mixtures to the dry ingredients and mix together thoroughly.

Pour the mixture into the cake tin. Bake for 50 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Remove from the oven and leave the cake to stand in its tin for 10 minutes before turning it out on to a wire rack to cool. Serve dusted with icing sugar and some crème fraîche.







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HINT: To give the cake a dramatic topping you could grate some cooked beetroot and add it to a standard white icing. Remember to use rubber gloves when handling the beetroot - it stains the skin!



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From 1983 through to 2009, Jasmine Sergeant enjoyed a successful career both as a Fine Dining Chef and as a Hospitality Consultant.

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