The Blackboard

CHOCOLATE CHIP CAKE

WITH CINNAMON STICK TOPPING

Preparation time: 15 minutes Cooking time: 50–60 minutes Use: 1 x 23cm (9in) springform cake tin Serves: 8

TOPPING

2 cinnamon sticks or 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

75g (3oz) unsalted butter

4 tablespoons granulated sugar

CAKE

110g (4oz) unsalted butter, softened

220g (8oz) granulated sugar

2 large eggs

300ml (1/2 pint) sour cream or full-fat yogurt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

450g (1lb) self-raising flour

200g (7oz) dark chocolate, minimum 60% cocoa solids, chopped Preheat the oven to $180^{\circ}\text{C}/350^{\circ}\text{F/gas}$ mark 4. Butter and flour the cake tin.

To make the topping, grind the cinnamon sticks in a pestle and mortar until you have quite a fine powder with a few threads of the cinnamon stick remaining, as these give an added intensity of flavour.

Melt the butter and add the sugar and the cinnamon, stirring well. Set aside.

To make the cake, cream the butter and sugar, add the eggs and continue to beat until smooth. Add the sour cream or yogurt and the vanilla extract and mix well. Sift in the flour and add the chocolate. Stir.

Pour the batter into the cake tin, then evenly spread the topping over the batter using the back of a spoon.

Bake in the oven for 50–60 minutes. Leave to cool in the tin before turning out.







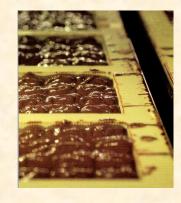
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From 1983 through to 2009, Jasmine Sergeant enjoyed a successful career both as a Fine Dining Chef and as a Hospitality Consultant.