The Blackboard

VODKA CHILLI

CHOCOLATES

Marinating time: 12 hours Preparation time: 30 minutes Use: piping bag and small nozzle Makes: 12 chilli chocolates

6 green chilli peppers, stalks on 6 red chilli peppers, stalks on 350ml (12fl oz) vodka

100g (31/2 oz) good-quality white chocolate or dark chocolate, minimum 60% cocoa solids

to fill the chillies

black pepper, freshly ground

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

icing sugar

Wash the chillies, then cut a small slit in the side of each one to allow you to remove the inner membrane and all the seeds, so they are ready to be filled. Marinate the prepared chillies in the vodka for at least

To make the filling, melt the white or dark chocolate in a heatproof bowl suspended over a saucepan of barely simmering water. Remove from the heat and mix in a shot of vodka and some freshly ground pepper. Fill the chillies using a piping bag fitted with a small nozzle, or, if you don't have one, use a coffee spoon and a chopstick instead. Store the chillies in a container in the freezer until needed.

Sift icing sugar over a serving plate. Grind some black pepper over the icing sugar.

To dip the chillies, melt the dark chocolate in a heatproof bowl suspended over a saucepan of barely simmering water. Pour the melted chocolate into a glass and dip the chillies so that they are threequarters coated in chocolate. Place them directly on to the serving plate to set before serving.

12 hours before you prepare the filling.

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HINT: It is possible to blanch the de-seeded chillies to soften their flavour or boil them for 2 minutes to remove most of their heat.



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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