

Angel Food Cake

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups egg whites (10-12 large), room temperature

1 1/2 cups superfine sugar, divided

1 cup sifted cake flour (7/8 cup all-purpose flour + 1/8 cup cornstarch)

1 teaspoon cream of tartar

1/4 teaspoon salt

2 teaspoons vanilla extract or vanilla paste

1/2 teaspoon almond extract

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 325F.

- In a small bowl, whisk together 3/4 cup sugar and the cake flour. Set aside.

- Beat egg whites until frothy, the add cream of tartar and salt. Beat until fully incorporated then begin to add the remaining 3/4 cup of sugar 1-2 tablespoons at a time. When sugar has been added, beat egg whites to soft peaks. You will know when you have soft peaks because the egg whites will look like soft waves and when you lift the beaters, the peaks will droop back down into the batter. Do not beat all the way to stiff peaks. Once you have soft peaks, add the vanilla and almond extracts and beat for a few seconds to evenly distribute.

- Sift the flour/sugar mixture over the egg whites in 6-8 additions (depending on your proficiency with folding flour into egg whites) and gently fold it in after each addition. It is better to take your time and do it gently than to rush and deflate the egg whites.

- Spoon batter into an ungreased 9 inch tube pan with a removeable bottom. Smooth the top with a spatula and tap the pan on the counter once or twice to ensure that there are no large bubbles lurking beneath the surface.

- Bake for 50-60 minutes, until the top springs back when lightly pressed. Mine took 55 minutes.

- Remove from oven an invert pan over a bottle. Allow to cool completely or overnight.

- Gently run a thin knife around the sides, then around the bottom, of the pan to release the cake when you are ready to serve it.

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