

Cherry & Mascarpone Cream Layer Cake

Servings: 9-12 | Prep Time: 2 Hours

Cake Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup Unsalted Butter, softened
- 1 cup Granulated Sugar
- 1 tablespoon Vanilla Extract
- 1 teaspoon Butter
- 1/2 cup Sour Cream
- 2 Eggs, room temperature
- 2 cups Cake Flour, sifted
- 1 tablespoon Baking Powder
- 1/2 teaspoon Salt
- 3/4 cup Whole Milk, room temperature

Whipped Mascarpone Frosting Ingredients:

- 2 cups Heavy Whipping Cream, chilled
- 1/2 cup Mascarpone
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract
- 3/4 cup Powdered Sugar, sifted
- 2 cups Cherry Pie Filling (either homemade or canned cherry pie filling)
- Maraschino Cherries, with Stems, for garnish (update: for a hint of bourbon use Woodford Reserve Bourbon Cherries for the garnish!)



Directions:

1. Prepare the Vanilla Cake: Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Grease a 9-inch square cake pan and line the bottom with a square piece of parchment paper.
2. In a stand mixer set with the paddle attachment, whip, on medium-high speed, the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes. Decrease to medium and add the vanilla extract, butter flavoring and sour cream and mix until incorporated.
3. Add the eggs one at time, mixing thoroughly after each addition.
4. Stir together the cake flour, baking powder and salt. Add to butter mixture alternately with the milk in 2 additions each. Mix until all ingredients are incorporated and the batter is smooth, but do not over mix.
5. Pour the batter into the cake pan and bake 30-35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove pans and allow to cool in the pan for 10 minutes. Invert cake out of the pan onto cooling rack and allow to complete cooling.
6. Prepare the Mascarpone Frosting: In a stand mixer set with the whisk attachment, whip together the cream, mascarpone and vanilla until stiff peaks form. Add powdered sugar and mix until combined.
7. Assemble the cake: slice cake in half, creating two layers. Spread cherry pie filling on the bottom half of cake and lay the top half on top. Spread or pipe frosting over the top of cake and decorate with stemmed Maraschino cherries. Eat immediately!

I realized just after I finished decorating the cake that I should have used Woodford Reserve Bourbon Cherries for the garnish! That hint of bourbon would be great among all that decadent whipped cream and mascarpone cheese frosting! Oh well, there's always next time.

Enjoy!
—Frankie