



COOKING CLASSES
AT SUR LA TABLE

FOCUS SERIES
WHITE CHOCOLATE AND
PEPPERMINT MACARONS

WITH SUR LA TABLE CHEF

MENU:

CLASSIC VANILLA MACARON
WHITE CHOCOLATE AND PEPPERMINT GANACHE

Ingredient Shopping List

Below is a list of ingredients you'll need to make the recipes in this packet.

Dairy

- 4 large egg whites
- ½ cup heavy cream

Pantry Items

- Confectioners' sugar
- Almond flour
- Cream of tartar
- Granulated sugar
- Vanilla bean paste or 1/2 vanilla bean
- Kosher salt
- Red, green, or blue gel food coloring
- 1 pound white chocolate
- Peppermint oil
- 1/8 cup peppermint crunch sprinkles, or crushed peppermint candies
- About ½ cup desiccated coconut (unsweetened coconut flakes)

Equipment Needed

Below is a list of tools you'll need to make the recipes in this packet.

Hand Tools/Gadgets

- Kitchen scale
- Bench scraper (optional)
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Sieve or fine-mesh strainer
- Silicone spatula
- Wooden spoon
- Large mixing bowl
- Heatproof mixing bowls (various sizes)
- Whisk

Appliances

- Food processor
- Stand mixer or handheld mixer with paddle and whisk attachment

Baking Tools and Equipment

- 2 baking sheets
- 2 medium pastry bags (disposable or fabric)
- 1/2" plain round pastry tip (#12)

Cookware

- Medium saucepan

Other

- Parchment paper
- Shallow bowl

Pre-Class Mise en Place and Notes

- Please gather all ingredients prior to class if you will be cooking along.
- It is helpful to organize the ingredients by recipe on rimmed baking sheets.
- Feel free to pre-measure ingredients, but it is not necessary.
- We encourage you to prep all your ingredients before class as it will allow you to have more time to listen and watch the instructor.

Classic Vanilla Macarons

1. Print out 4 copies of the macaron template from the last page of this packet to place under your parchment paper on your rimmed baking sheets.
2. You will start class by pulsing the almond flour and confectioners' sugar. It will be helpful to have your ingredients, kitchen scale, food processor, fine-mesh strainer and a sheet of parchment paper ready to go.
3. Preheat the oven to 300°F and position rack in the middle of the oven.
4. 30 minutes prior to class, remove 4 egg whites from refrigerator and allow to come to room temperature.
5. Prepare a piping bag fitted with a ½-inch plain, round tip.

White Chocolate and Peppermint Ganache

1. Set up the saucepan with water and bring to a simmer.
2. Chop the white chocolate into small pieces.
3. Place the cream into a heat-proof bowl.
4. Prepare a piping bag fitted with a large, round tip.

CLASSIC VANILLA MACARON

Yield: about 35 macarons

7 ounces confectioners' sugar

4 ounces almond flour

4 large (4 ounces) egg whites, at room temperature

1/8 teaspoon cream of tartar

3 1/2 ounces granulated sugar

1/2 vanilla bean, split in half and seeds scraped

Unsweetened coconut flakes (desiccated coconut)

Preheat oven to 300°F, with rack placed in the lower section of the oven.

1. Fit baking sheets with parchment paper or silicone mats. Make sure the pans are flat (not dented or warped) and the parchment is trimmed to fit pan. Using paper templates, trace circles onto the parchment or place them under the silicone mats.
2. In the bowl of a food processor fitted with a metal blade, process confectioners' sugar and almond flour into a fine powder, about 30 seconds. Using a drum sieve, sift mixture onto a sheet of parchment paper three times and discard any coarse meal (no more than 1/2 teaspoon). Set aside.
3. **To make the meringue:** To the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a whisk attachment, add egg whites and cream of tartar; whip whites on medium speed until foamy. Gradually add sugar, stopping to scrape down the sides of the bowl as needed. Once all the sugar is incorporated, continue to whip meringue into stiff glossy peaks. The meringue should have the consistency of shaving cream. Gently fold in vanilla bean seeds and gel food coloring if using.
4. **To complete the macaronnage step:** Add one-third of the sifted flour mixture to the meringue and fold with the spatula. Once incorporated, add the remaining flour mixture, smearing the batter along the sides of the bowl and then folding back to the center, being careful not to over mix. Repeat until the batter becomes shiny and reaches the consistency of slow-moving lava. To check for the correct consistency, the batter should flow from your spatula like thick lava and hold a ribbon for a couple of seconds, then fall back into itself making a smooth glossy surface. If it falls in clumps and doesn't flow slowly, continue to fold gently, deflating the batter until the proper consistency is reached.
5. Transfer batter to a pastry bag fitted with a 1/2-inch plain round tip. Pipe a small dollop of batter into the corners of each baking sheet and lay parchment over (ink side down) and press down corners to secure. Using both hands to hold the pastry bag, pipe batter by placing the tip 1/2 inch above the parchment, directly in the center of the first stenciled circle, and fill. Once the circle is filled, stop squeezing and make a quick upward and sideways motion to detach the batter and

move to the next circle. (The batter should settle into a smooth and glossy round circle.) Dust the circles with coconut flakes

6. Let macarons stand at room temperature until a firm skin forms on the macarons, 30 to 45 minutes. To check to see if the macarons are ready, lightly touch the side, and if your finger does not make a dent, they are ready for the oven.

7. Bake macarons one sheet at a time, rotating halfway through, until macarons are crisp and firm, 14 to 16 minutes. Carefully slide macaron topped parchment sheets onto a wire rack and allow macarons to cool completely before removing from paper and filling.

WHITE CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT GANACHE

Yield: 2 cups

1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
16 ounces white chocolate, chopped
1/8 teaspoon peppermint oil
1/8 cup peppermint crunch sprinkles
Unsweetened coconut flakes (desiccated coconut)

1. To a medium saucepan set over medium heat add enough water to fill half full. To a medium heat-proof bowl add heavy cream. When the cream is heated through and warm, add in chopped white chocolate, use a wire whisk to slowly stir together until chocolate is melted. Carefully remove the bowl from the saucepan and turn off heat. Add peppermint oil to chocolate mixture, and use a silicone spatula to fold the oil into the mixture. Cover and transfer to refrigerator to chill until firm, about 1 hour.
2. Add the peppermint sprinkles to the cooled ganache and stir to combine. Transfer filling to a pastry bag fitted with a large round tip.
3. **To assemble macarons:** Pipe about 1 teaspoon of ganache onto the flat side of a cooled macaron. Place another cookie, flat side down, over filling, and gently press just enough to push filling out towards edges. Place coconut in a shallow bowl and roll the macaron in the coconut flakes, adhering it gently to the exposed ganache.
4. Once filled, macarons can be refrigerated in an airtight container for up to 3 days.

HOW TO MAKE MACARONS

Making macarons requires only three ingredients: almond flour, confectioners' sugar, and egg whites. Other items such as cocoa powder, dried raspberries, nut powders, and dried teas can be added to change the color and flavor of these delicate cookies. It's important to carefully choose ingredients and follow the preparation and baking instructions in this packet to ensure success.

Almond flour, very finely ground

Available at Sur La Table, specialty stores, or online. Store products in the freezer as nut flours spoil quickly. Purchase products that contain little or no cornstarch which can cause the macaron shells to crack. Another option is to buy almonds and grind them to a very fine texture in a food processor, spice grinder, or blender.

Egg whites

For best results, allow the egg whites to reach room temperature before whipping. Make sure that the whites contain no bits of yolk which will prevent the whites from foaming properly. A mild acid such as cream of tartar also helps the egg whites foam. When measuring, keep in mind that the white from a large egg weighs approximately 1 ounce.

Flavorings

Mix dry flavorings such as dried fruit powders, teas, nut powders, and cocoa with the almond meal. Mix wet ingredients such as food colorings with the egg whites once they are beaten.

MACARON BATTER MIXING TECHNIQUES

Common/French/Cold Meringue

Made with room temperature egg whites. Sugar is slowly added after the egg whites are beaten to the soft peak stage. This mixture is less stable and must be used immediately.

Cooked/Italian/Hot Meringue

A sugar syrup (4 parts sugar to 1 part water) is cooked to approximately 243°F (firm ball stage), then poured into the whipping egg whites (begin whipping egg whites when the sugar syrup reaches a boil). This mixture is more stable than a cold meringue.

IMPORTANT MACARON TERMINOLOGY

Macaronage

The technique of deflating the almond flour and meringue to create a smooth, shiny batter.

Macaronner

The technique of mixing the batter until it is firm and drips slowly when scooped.

Pied

The “foot” or small frills that form along the bottom edge of a macaron makes the cookie distinctive and authentic. Forming the pied depends on several factors including proper macaronage, oven temperature, and rapping the baking sheet on the counter before placing it in the oven.

MACARON TIPS

- To ensure consistent results, weigh all the ingredients with a digital scale.
- Make sure to sift your ingredients multiple times if necessary. Dry ingredients should have a powdery texture with no lumps. The almond and confectioners’ sugar mixture may be pulsed in a food processor to make the texture finer.
- The final macaron batter should be firm and drip slowly when scooped with a silicone spatula.
- To keep macarons consistent in size and shape, make a circle template by drawing 1 1/3" circles spaced at least 1/2" apart on the reverse side of a sheet of parchment paper cut to fit your baking sheet. Alternatively, place a template under the parchment paper. Do not remove template until after macarons are baked.
- When piping the macaron batter, keep the tip of the pastry bag about 1/2 " above and in the middle of the circle guide since the batter will spread.
- After piping, rap the baking sheet firmly on the counter to release any trapped air and to help form the pied.
- Dry the piped macarons for at least 30 minutes before baking. The drying process is complete when the macarons no longer stick to your finger when lightly touched.
- Only bake one tray at a time and rotate the baking sheet in the oven to promote even baking.
- If macarons stick to the parchment paper after baking, transfer the macarons to the freezer for 5 minutes to release.
- Macarons can be kept sealed in an airtight container for 3 days at room temperature or up to 1 week in the refrigerator.

