

Sweet tidings

Gourmet coffee recipes produce beverages to offer holiday guests

America's love-affair with coffee continues to brew and nearly every gourmet shop offers some type of holiday java concoction.

At Marshall Field's, our coffee and sugar dependency can be quenched in a candy. Frango chocolates newest flavor is coffee and is expected to be as popular as Frango's Creme Brulee chocolates.

"Coffee has become an important part of our daily ritual," Lynn Hempe, Marshall Field's merchandise manager said. "Chocolate is an old favorite ... how better to marry two favorites — chocolates and coffee?"

Leave it to Frango's to create a thick, sweet holiday cream accented with coffee, so recipe below. And let's ignore the calories, okay?

We also scoured the Internet for interesting coffee recipes special enough to serve to your family this season. The following are served Café Americain style — meaning the size of an American cup of coffee rather than those tiny and elegant European sizes.

gle espresso sizes.

Try these marvelous recipes — and you don't have to be a barista (the coffee bar employee who makes your latte) to make them.

The first recipe is a coffee dessert from Frango, the others come from the delightful site: Wired Java Fanatic at www.nvlink.com

COFFEE FRANGO POTS A CREME

1 c whole milk (or soy milk)
6 ounces coffee Frangos,
chopped
6 egg yolks
2/3 c granulated sugar

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Boil milk in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Stir in Frango chocolates. Remove from heat and whisk in the cream. Blend well and cool slightly.

Combine egg yolks and sugar in a large mixing bowl. Whisk thoroughly. Slowly pour chocolate mix into the egg yolk mixture, stir con-

stantly. Strain and let rest few minutes at room temperature.

Divide the custard among six 6-ounce ramekins. Set the ramekins in a baking dish and add boiling water to the dish to reach half-way up the sides. Cover loosely with foil. Bake on center rack of the oven until creams are just set at the edges but still trembling in the center — 30 to 40 minutes. Remove from the oven. Refrigerate loosely covered for at least 2 hours. Serve chilled with a dollop of whipped cream.

SANTA'S JAVA

3 cups of coffee

Coffee Culture

- Daily consumption of gourmet coffee has tripled since 1998
- Gourmet coffee consumption was up 59 percent last year
- The average American consumes three cups of coffee each day
- Coffee ranks as the number one beverage, above tea, beer, juice and even sodas.
- 50 percent of coffee is consumed at breakfast, 18 percent during the morning, 17 percent in mid afternoon and only 8 percent in the evening.

1 cup heavy cream
1 vanilla bean - sliced (found at gourmet shops or natural stores like Whole Foods)
4 cinnamon sticks
2 tablespoons of brown sugar (use more if desired)
2 teaspoon of crushed chocolate (sprinkles may be used)

Slice the vanilla bean lengthwise and place it in the bottom of the coffee maker carafe. Brew three cups of coffee. While coffee is brewing, whip the cream and

brown sugar together. Pour the coffee into four cups and top with the whipped cream mixture. Add one cinnamon stick to each cup. Sprinkle the crushed chocolate on top. Add extra brown sugar if desired.

CHRISTMAS/ HOLIDAY LATTE (ALSO KNOWN AS AN EGGNOG LATTE)

3 cups of Eggnog
3 cups Espresso
Nutmeg to taste

Brew espresso
Steam eggnog as if it were milk. Pour espresso into mug. Pour steamed eggnog. Spoon out frothed eggnog. On top of froth, lightly sprinkle nutmeg.

Variation:
Topping this latte with whipped cream instead of froth for a sweeter drink.

CHRISTMAS EVE DELIGHT (MAKES 10 CUPS)

3 tablespoons of butter
1 cup of brown sugar
1/8 teaspoon ground allspice
1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
1 1/2 cups heavy cream
10 cups coffee
10 strips orange peel
1 apple, cored and sliced into 10 pieces
Optional - 1/2 to 1 shot of rum per cup of coffee

Melt the butter in a small pan of low heat. Stir in the brown sugar, allspice, cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves. Allow mixture to cool and then store in a sealed container in the refrigerator. To serve, put 1 teaspoon of the butter spice, 2 tablespoons cream, 1 strip orange peel, and 1 apple slice into 6 ounces of hot coffee. If desired, add 1/2 to 1 shot of rum.

Here's a gift basket they'll actually use

A hearty meal from Little Italy in Northville has replaced the typical food basket as a fun idea to indulge in.

This year, the remarkable Little Italy Restaurant is offering special holiday baskets filled with fine Italian products and wines — a gourmet Italian dinner in a basket. Prices begin at \$69 starting with

a non-alcoholic creation named *Buon Amici* containing items from imported pasta to Genoa pesto and much more.

The *Paesano*, \$85, includes everything from the *Buon Amici* plus a choice of red or white wine. The *Padrone*, \$99, includes both wines and all of the above. And the *Tony Soprano*, \$265, includes all the above

plus four different kinds of Terrabianca's olive oil.

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For more information on the baskets call (248) 348-0575.

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