Braided almond bread is worth the effort

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The braided effect of this almond bread is impressive, but the recipe can easily guide you through the process of michigalt.

The taste is worth the effort: Almond paste and raspherries are a perfect pair-ing. Enjoy the braid at brunch, or slice and munch whenever hunger demands. If you make two braids, the second

would make a great gift to take to a pic-nic or party. Although it has a summery air, this is a welcome treat any time of

ALMOND RASPBERRY BRAID

(Total time about 31/2 hours, includ ing waiting for the dough to rise – so kitchen time is less)

Tablespoons butter

1 egg white, room temperature Put the butter and milk in a small dish nd melt in the microwave.

1/2 teaspoon salt

Sprinkle the yeast and 1 tenspoon of sugar into the warm water and whisk until dissolved. Let stand for 10 minutes or until the mixture is bubbly and has

1/4 cup warm water (between 100°F and 110°F)

2 teaspoons grated lemon peel 1 teaspoon ground cardamom (option-

3 cups bread flour (see note)

2/3 cup raspberry preserves 7-ounce package almond paste

1 teaspoon sugar, plus 1/2 cup sugar

Liose to doubled in volume.

In the food processor fitted with the plastic dough blade, add butter-milk mixture, I/2 cup sugar, eggs, salt, lemon peel and cardamom. Pulse a few times to mix well.

Add the flour and the yeast mixture a bit at a time, pulsing. The dough is mixed when it pulls away from the side of the bowl and forms a ball. If the dough is too sticky and refuses to form a ball, add 1 tablespoon of flour at a time until it responds.

Turn the dough onto a floured work surface. Knead about 4 minutes or until dough feels soft and elastic.

Oil a bowl big enough to allow the dough to double in size. Form the dough into a ball and place in the bowl, turning the dough once so that the top also is coated with oil. Cover the bowl with wax

paper and a towel and let rise in a warm spot for 1 hour or until doubled in size.

Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper, or lightly grease it.

Punch down the dough. Flour your work surface and roll the dough into a rectangle about 10 inches by 14 inches. Transfer to the cookie sheet. With the back of a knife, mark the dough into three long lanes of

To make the strips that will be braided. cut the two outer lanes into angled strips a little more than 1 inch wide. (Scissors are easier than a knife for cutting the

Spread the raspberry preserves down the center lane. Slice the almond paste into thin "coins" and lay over the preserves. Braid the strips, giving a gentle pull to keep the braid neat: Begin braid by folding one end over itself about 1/3 inch, to keep the preserves from leaking out.
Next fold the left strip over the center
lane to cover the middle; take the opposite
right strip to fold over the first strip.
Repeat the strips, folding left to right
down to the end, tucking the last two
strips across each other and under, to end.

Let your Almond Raspberry Braid rest or another 30 minutes to rise.

Preheat oven to 350°F, with rack in mid-

Beat 1 room-temperature egg white with 1 teaspoon water. Brush onto the braid.

Bake for about 30 minutes or until gold-

Makes about 10 brunch servings. Recipe from Andre Prost Inc.
More almond paste recipes on the Net
at: http://www.odense.com

Chicken Salad Chapala is packed with lively flavors

This quick and easy recipe for Chicken Salad Chapala has a

Chicken Salad Chapale has a name that keys you to its style—Chapala is both a lake and a town in Mexico.

Just a few ingredients go into the lively combination that gives the dish its character. Cooked shredded chicken and canned deans are time savers; zucchini and bell pepper are part of the basic salad, interesting extras include crunchy tortillas and juicy mange, Finally, a honey-cumin vinaigrette gives a top

layer of flavor.

Any canned or dry-packaged beans may be used to substitute for those suggested in the recipe. The tortills wedges may be made 3 or 4 days in advance; store them at room temperature in an airtight container.

The end result is both full of taste and low in fat.

CHICKEN SALAD CHAPALA

(Preparation time 20 to 25

4 flour tortillas (8-inch)
16 ounces chicken bronst,
cooked, shredded or cubed

cooked, shredded or cubed
16-ounce can pinto or red kidnoy beans, or 11/2 cups cooked
dry-packaged pinto or red kidney
beans, rinsed, drained
15-ounce can black beans or
11/2 cups cooked dry-packaged
black beans, rinsed, drained
1 cup cubed mango
1 medium zucchini, cut in half,
eliced

sliced 1/2 cup chopped red bell pep-

per 1/4 cup chopped green onions

nnd tops
Honey-Cumin Vinaigrette
(recipe follows)
Geups torm salad greens
Prepare Honey-Cumin Vinaigrette over
and toss.
Prepare Honey-Cumin Vinaigrette over
and toss.
Arrange salad greens on serving plates and spoon chicken over
garnish with
reserved torilla wedges. Makes
wedges: apray tops with cooking
spray. Bake on cookie sheet at
376°F until browned and crisp, 5
to 8 minutes; reserve.
In a bowl, combine chicken,
beans, mango, zucchini, bell pep-

tablespoon honey
 or 3 teaspoons lime juice, to taste

1/4 teaspoon ground cumin

Mix all ingredients together

Makes about 2/3 cup.
Nutrition information per
serving: 343 cal., 7 g fat, 49 g
carbo., 564 mg sodium, 27 g pro,
10 g dietary fiber, 46 mg chol.
(Recipe from Bean Education
and Awareness Network.)

Make room for veggies on the grill

BY J.M. HIRSCH ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITTER

ASSOCIATED PRESS WHITER

(AP) – Move over, meat, and
make room on the grill for great
vegetables.

Grilling season is well under
way, but that doesn't mean you
have to default to the same old
burgers, steaks and dogs, even
tofu varieties. The flavors of vegetarian fare blessom just as nicely over an open flame.

Start with a vegetarian
favorite – marinated portobello
mushrooms, which are often
called vegetarian steaks for their
meaty texture. Eat them like a

meaty texture. Eat them like a burger on a bun, or cut into thick

slices and toss with sesame seed oil and soba noodles.

Corn-on-the-cob also is great on the grill. Some cooks suggest soaking the husked ears of corn in water for up to an hour before grilling. This step can be avoided if the corn is basted during cooking, which takes 15 to 20 minutes over a medium flame.

For a great baste, whisk tegether 12 Cup olive oil, 2 table-speons lomon juice and several tablespoons of diced fresh herbs (try rosemary and lavender). For even grilling, be sure to turn the corn each time you baste.

Don't forget pizza. The grill

gives the crust a smoky, crunchy touch. Because the dough cooks quickly on the grill, it's best to precook the vegetables on the

There also is marinated tafu. There also is marinated tofu, of course, but grilling it can be a challenge, as most tofu isn't tough enough to hold together. Here are two quick fixes.

First: Switch to pre-baked tofu. Because this variety of tofu is much descript the could be the second to the course the second to the sec

totu. Because this variety of totu is much denser, it easily holds up to the rigors of outdoor cooking. Or use a fish grilling rack, which clamps delicate fish between two mesh paddles.

Buttermilk bread quick and easy

See related story on Taste front.

BUTTERMILK QUICK BREAD
1 cup whole wheat flour, sifted
1/2 cup sil-purpose flour, sifted
1/2 cup comment

2 tsp. baking powder 1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 tensoon dill weed

teaspoon firesh oregano, basil and thyme, finely minced, or 1/2 teaspoon dried
 1/4 cups buttermlik

1 egg, slightly beater

1 Tablespoon sesame seeds

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray the interior of a 8-inch by 4-inch loaf pan with a vegetable oil spray. In a bowl, combine all the dry ingredients except

for the sesame seeds In a separate bowl, combine buttermilk, egg, honey and oil; sir into flour mixture just until blended. Spoon batter into the baking pan. Sprinkle sesame seeds over the tup.

Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until a toothpick insert-ed into the center comes out clean. Remove from oven and cool slightly. Turnout and cool completely on a wire rack.

Makes about 15 slices, each containing 151 calories and 4 grams of fat.

Recipe provided by the American Institute for Cancer Research

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