

Crème Brûlée Cheesecake Bars

Ingredients:

Crust
11/4 C finely crushed graham
crackers
(from 9 sheets)
2 Thsp. granulated sugar
6 Thsp. salted butter, melted

Cheesecake filling
3/4 C granulated sugar
11/2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
2 (8 oz.) packages cream cheese, softened
3 large eggs
3 Tbsp. heavy cream
3 Tbsp. sour cream
1 tsp. vanilla extract
Toppins: chocolate-covered espresso beans

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Generously butter an 8 by 8-inch baking dish. In a mixing bowl, whisk together graham cracker crumbs and sugar. Pour in butter and use a fork to mix until evenly moistened. Press mixture into an even layer in prepared baking dish and bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool while preparing filling. Reduce oven temperature to 325 degrees.

In a mixing bowl, whisk together 3/4 cup granulated sugar with the flour. Add cream cheese to mixing bowl and using an electric hand mixer set on low speed, blend together cream cheese and granulated sugar mixture just until smooth, about 1 minute. Add in eggs one at a time and mix just until combined after each addition. Add heavy cream, sour cream and vanilla and blend just until combined. Tap bowl forcefully against countertop about 30 times to release air bubbles. Butter the side of the baking dish and pour filling over crust. Bake in preheated oven until cheesecake is fairly jiggly, about 42 - 45 minutes, then turn oven off and allow cheesecake to rest in warm oven with door closed about 10 minutes longer or until center only slightly jiggles. Remove from oven and allow to cool on a wire rack at room temperature 1 hour, then cover and chill 4 hours.

Sprinkle with an even layer of sugar and melt sugar with a culinary torch (it will melt into beads then bubble, then caramelize and turn to a smooth surface). Allow topping to cool then carefully cut into squares and add a chocolate covered espresso bean right before serving. Store in refrigerator in an airtight container.

"Lize is an Adventure, Drink Wine!"