

# **PARTY THEMES**



Creations accentuating the tantalizing flavors of Japan (from top, clockwise): Ocha-Coconut Mousse, Duckling à la Gourmet with Sauce Orientale, Fish in Coconut-Mushroom Sauce, White Peach Dessert, and Creamy Mandarin Orange Salad.

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## THE GOURMET FOODS COOKBOOK

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Family Weekly Cookbook • MELANIE DE PROFT. Food Editor

Here are suggestions for inspiring dishes, Japanese in character but with a blending of the American. Any selection (or several) is worthy of providing the theme for an exotic Oriental party.

## Ocha-Coconut Mousse

B 00 FOR FELLENS

It is the green tea that makes the difference!

- 1 cup packaged grated coconut
- 1/2 cup sugar
- tablespoon (1 env.) unflavored gelatin
- 4 cup light corn sirup
- 10 bags Japanese green tea (about 1/4 cup tea) Few drops green food coloring Few drops yellow food coloring
- I cup chilled whipping cream, whipped
- 1 11-oz. can Mandarin oranges, drained and
- 1. Heat coconut and milk to boiling in a saucepan. Remove from heat and blend in a mixture of the sugar and gelatin, stirring until gelatin is dissolved. Blend in the corn sirup.
- 2. Add tea bags (or loose tea tied in a cheesecloth bag) and allow to steep 5 min. Press liquid from tea bags and discard bags. Stir in food coloring, Cool.
- 3. Chill mixture until slightly thicker than the consistency of thick, unbeaten egg white. If chilled in refrigerator, stir occasionally; if chilled over ice and water, stir frequently.
- 4. Beat gelatin mixture until light and foamy. Fold in whipped cream.
- 5. Pour into a 1-qt. bombe mold and freeze until firm, about 8 hrs. or overnight.
- 6. Unmold onto a chilled plate and garnish with the orange sections and mint leaves.

6 to 8 servings



### Duckling a la Gourmet with Sauce Orientale

- 1 4- to 5-lb. duckling, cut in quarters 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1/2 cup packaged grated coconut 1/4 cup flour
- 11/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- Sauce Orientale (see recipe)
- 1. Prick the skin of the duckling with a fork. 2. Place skin-side up on a rack in a shallow roasting pan.
- 3. Roast in a 400°F oven for 1 hr. Remove fat
- 4. Brush duckling with the egg. Sprinkle a mixture of the coconut, flour, salt, and pepper over the duckling.
- 5. Return to oven and continue to roast for 15 min., basting once with the drippings.
- 6. Serve with the sauce.

### Sauce Orientale

11/2 tablespoons cornstarch

- 1 11-oz. can Mandarin oranges, drained (reserve sirup)
- 1/2 cup maple sirup
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice 2 tablespoons dark seedless raisins 1 tablespoon butter
- 1. Combine cornstarch, sirup from oranges, maple sirup, and lemon juice in a saucepan; stir until smooth. Add raisins.
- 2. Bring to boiling over medium heat, stirring constantly; boil 3 min.
- 3. Stir in butter and oranges. Bring to boiling, reduce heat, and simmer for 2 min.
- 4. Serve hot with the roast duckling. About 124 cups sauce



#### Fish in Coconut-Mushroom Sauce

- 1 31/2-oz. can flaked coconut
- 11/2 cups water
- 1 2-oz. pkg. dried Japanese mushrooms
- 1 lb. sole or other fish fillets 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- Shortening 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1 scallion, sliced
- 1/4 cup sugar 1/2 teaspoon salt
- I to 11/2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 11/2 teaspoons Japanese soy sauce (shoyu)
- 1. Combine coconut and water in a saucepan: bring to boiling. Strain, pressing coconut to extract liquid; reserve liquid and 1/2 cup coconut for garnish.
- 2. Soak mushrooms according to package directions until softened. Reserve liquid and 8 or 9 mushrooms for garnish. Slice enough of the remaining mushrooms to measure 1/4 cup.
- 3. Dip fillets into egg, then into the 1/2 cup cornstarch, coating all sides. Heat enough shortening to cover the bottom of a large skillet. Add fillets and cook about 2 min. on each side, or until lightly browned and fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Arrange fillets on a heated platter and set aside in a warm place.
- 4. Blend 2 tablespoons of the mushroom liquid into the 2 teaspoons cornstarch until smooth. Add with the sliced mushrooms and last five ingredients to the coconut liquid in a saucepan. Bring rapidly to boiling, stirring constantly, and cook until slightly thickened, about 3 min.
- 5. Spoon sauce over fish and garnish with toasted coconut and reserved mushrooms, heated in some of the reserved liquid. 3 to 4 servings

Toasted Coconut-Heat 1 tablespoon butter in a skillet; add the 1/2 cup drained coconut and heat until lightly browned, stirring occasionally.



#### White Peach Dessert

- 1 3-oz. pkg. strawberry-flavored gelatin
- 2 tablespoons sugar Few grains salt
- cup boiling water
- 1 15-oz. can Japanese white peach halves,
- drained (reserve sirup)
  4 teaspoon almond extract
- 1. Mix gelatin, sugar, and salt together in a bowl; add boiling water and stir until gelatin is completely dissolved.
- 2. Add enough water to the reserved peach sirup to make 1 cup; stir with the extract into gelatin.
- 3. Rinse four individual molds with cold water. Place a peach half, cut-side up, into each, Add about 1/2 cup gelatin to each mold. Chill until firm, about 2 hrs.
- 4. Unmold onto chilled serving plates and garnish each mold with a ring of sliced white peaches. 4 servings



#### Creamy Mandarin Orange Salad

- 1 3-oz. pkg. lemon-flavored gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water 1 11-oz. can Mandarin oranges, drained
- (reserve sirup)
- 14 cup mayonnaise 1/2 cup diced celery
- 1/4 cup thin onion rings
- 1. Lightly oil a 1-qt, mold with salad or cooking oil (not olive oil); set aside to drain.
- 2. Pour boiling water over the gelatin and stir until gelatin is completely dissolved.
- 3. Add enough water to reserved sirup to equal 1 cup. Stir into gelatin.
- 4. Blend a small amount of the gelatin mixture into the mayonnaise, then add to the remaining gelatin mixture and blend well.
- 5. Chill until mixture begins to gel (becomes slightly thicker). If chilled in refrigerator, stir occasionally; if chilled over ice and water, stir mixture frequently.
- 6. Mix in the remaining ingredients. Spoon into the mold and chill until firm, about 3 hrs.
- 7. To serve, unmold onto a chilled serving plate and garnish with salad greens and additional Mandarin orange sections, if desired.

About 6 servings

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