

chocolate hot cross buns recipe

Chocolate hot cross buns recipe is a delightful twist on the traditional Easter treat, combining the rich flavors of chocolate with the spiced dough that has made hot cross buns a beloved baked good for centuries. These soft, sweet buns are perfect for breakfast, brunch, or even a special dessert. In this article, we'll guide you through an easy-to-follow recipe that will satisfy your chocolate cravings and impress your family and friends.

Understanding Hot Cross Buns

Hot cross buns are a spiced sweet bun made with currants or raisins and marked with a cross on the top. Traditionally eaten on Good Friday, they have become a popular treat enjoyed year-round. The cross symbolizes the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, while the spices represent the spices used to embalm him. Today, we're giving this classic recipe a chocolatey makeover that is sure to be a hit with chocolate lovers.

Ingredients for Chocolate Hot Cross Buns

Before diving into the recipe, let's gather the ingredients you'll need. Here's what you'll need to make approximately 12 delicious chocolate hot cross buns:

For the Buns

- 4 cups (500g) all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup (50g) granulated sugar
- 1 packet (2 1/4 tsp) active dry yeast
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 cup (240ml) whole milk, warmed
- 1/4 cup (60g) unsalted butter, melted
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup (175g) chocolate chips (dark, milk, or a mix)

For the Cross

- 1/2 cup (65g) all-purpose flour
- Water (as needed to make a paste)

For the Glaze

- 1/4 cup (50g) granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup (60ml) water

Step-by-Step Instructions to Make Chocolate Hot Cross Buns

Now that you have all your ingredients ready, let's get started! Follow these simple steps to create your chocolate hot cross buns.

Step 1: Prepare the Dough

1. In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, sugar, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg.
2. In a small bowl, dissolve the yeast in the warmed milk and let it sit for about 5 minutes until bubbly.
3. Add the melted butter and eggs to the yeast mixture, whisking until combined.
4. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix until a dough begins to form.
5. Knead the dough on a floured surface for about 10 minutes, or until the dough is smooth and elastic.
6. Add the chocolate chips and knead gently until evenly incorporated.

Step 2: First Rise

1. Place the dough in a lightly oiled bowl, cover it with a damp cloth or plastic wrap, and let it rise in a warm place for about 1 to 1.5 hours, or until it has doubled in size.

Step 3: Shape the Buns

1. Once the dough has risen, punch it down to release the air.
2. Divide the dough into 12 equal pieces and shape each piece into a round bun.
3. Place the buns on a baking tray lined with parchment paper, ensuring they are close but not touching.

Step 4: Second Rise

1. Cover the buns again and let them rise for another 30-45 minutes until they have puffed up.

Step 5: Make the Cross Paste

1. While the buns are rising, mix the flour for the cross with enough water to create a thick paste.
2. Transfer this paste to a piping bag or a zip-lock bag with a corner snipped off.
3. Once the buns have risen, pipe a cross on top of each bun.

Step 6: Bake the Buns

1. Preheat your oven to 375°F (190°C).
2. Bake the buns for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown.

Step 7: Prepare the Glaze

1. While the buns are baking, prepare the glaze by combining sugar and water in a small saucepan over medium heat.
2. Stir until the sugar has dissolved, then remove from heat.

Step 8: Glaze and Cool

1. Once the buns are baked, remove them from the oven and brush the warm glaze over the tops to give them a shiny finish.
2. Let the buns cool on a wire rack before serving.

Serving Suggestions

Chocolate hot cross buns are delicious on their own, but you can elevate the experience even further with these serving suggestions:

- Serve warm with a pat of butter.
- Pair with a side of clotted cream or mascarpone cheese for added richness.
- Toast the buns lightly and add a drizzle of chocolate syrup or a sprinkle of powdered sugar.
- Enjoy with a cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate for a cozy treat.

Storage Tips

To keep your chocolate hot cross buns fresh:

- Store them in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 3 days.
- For longer storage, wrap them tightly in plastic wrap and freeze for up to 3 months.
- To reheat, simply place in the oven for a few minutes or microwave for a short time.

Conclusion

This chocolate hot cross buns recipe is a delightful way to celebrate Easter or simply indulge in a sweet treat. The combination of soft, spiced dough and rich chocolate creates a mouthwatering experience that is sure to please anyone who tries them. By following these straightforward steps, you can create a batch of chocolate hot cross buns that are perfect for sharing or enjoying all by yourself. So gather your ingredients, roll up your sleeves, and get ready to enjoy a delicious twist on a classic favorite!

Frequently Asked Questions

What ingredients do I need for chocolate hot cross buns?

You'll need all-purpose flour, sugar, cocoa powder, instant yeast, milk, butter, eggs, chocolate chips, and spices like cinnamon and nutmeg for flavor.

How do I achieve the perfect texture for chocolate hot cross buns?

To achieve the perfect texture, ensure you knead the dough until it's smooth and elastic, and allow it to rise in a warm place until doubled in size.

Can I use dark chocolate instead of milk chocolate in the recipe?

Yes, you can use dark chocolate for a richer flavor, but adjust the sugar accordingly if you prefer a less sweet bun.

What is the best way to store chocolate hot cross buns?

Store them in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 3 days or freeze them for longer storage. Just reheat in the oven before serving.

How can I make chocolate hot cross buns vegan?

You can substitute milk with plant-based milk, replace butter with a vegan butter alternative, and use flax eggs or applesauce instead of regular eggs.

What is the traditional cross on hot cross buns made of?

Traditionally, the cross is made from a mixture of flour and water, but you can also use icing or a simple paste made from flour and milk.

How long does it take to make chocolate hot cross buns from start to finish?

The total time can vary, but expect about 3 to 4 hours, including preparation, rising, and baking time.

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