

FLOURLESS CHOCOLATE-PECAN CAKE

SERVES 8 TO 12 / 2 HOURS

This cake will rise as it bakes, then sink dramatically in the center. Don't worry—just trim the top and save the pieces for snacks.

- 12 oz. bittersweet chocolate (63% or 64% cacao), chopped
- ½ cup plus 1 ½ tbsp. roasted pecan, almond, or walnut oil
- 3 tsp. vanilla extract, divided
- 1 cup lightly toasted pecans or almonds or ⅔ cup purchased nut flour*
- ½ cup plus 2 tbsp. granulated sugar, divided
- 3 to 4 large, firm oranges
- 7 large eggs, separated
- ½ cup packed light brown sugar
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1 cup powdered sugar

1. Preheat oven to 325° with a rack in the middle. Grease a 9-in. springform pan and line with parchment paper, cut to fit.
2. Heat chocolate in a double boiler or metal bowl set over (not in) a pot of simmering water until about half-melted. Remove pan from heat and stir until smooth. Stir in oil. Cool slightly; stir in 2 tsp. vanilla.
3. Grind pecans and 1 tbsp. granulated sugar in a food processor in 2 batches, pulsing so you don't end up with pecan butter (you'll have some larger pieces). With a medium-mesh sifter, sift to yield ⅔ cup pecan flour.
4. Zest 2 oranges with a 5-holed zester; juice enough oranges to yield 1¼ cups juice.
5. Using a mixer, beat egg yolks and brown sugar in a medium bowl until mixture is pale and, when beaters are lifted, falls in thick ribbons, 5 minutes. Beat in 2 tbsp. plus 1 tsp. orange juice (mixture will get more liquidy). Gently fold in pecan flour. Fold in chocolate mixture.
6. In another bowl with clean beaters, beat egg whites with salt until foamy. Gradual-

of egg whites into chocolate mixture; then fold in remaining whites.

7. Pour batter into pan and bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out with crumbs adhering, 1 to 1¼ hours. Let cool on a rack (it will sink a lot).
8. Make glaze: In a large frying pan, boil remaining orange juice, 2 tbsp. granulated sugar, and the zest over medium-high heat until reduced to ½ cup, 10 minutes. Sift powdered sugar into juice and whisk smooth. Let cool 5 minutes, then whisk in remaining 1 tsp. vanilla.
9. Let cake cool, then run a heated thin metal spatula (heat under hot water, then dry with a towel) around inside of pan.
10. Remove rim of pan. Starting from edge and working toward center, carefully trim uneven top layer from cake using a large serrated knife. Invert cake onto a plate.



*Find nut flours at amazon.com (pecan flour is called "meal"). ▲

PER SERVING 575 Cal., 54% (309 Cal.) from fat; 5.6 g protein; 34 g fat (12 g sat.); 63 g carbo (1.2 g fiber); 148 mg sodium; 148 mg chol. GF (with GF powdered sugar)/LS/V

Holland's wine picks

Brown Estate 2011 "Chaos Theory"

(Chiles Valley District, Napa Valley)

Esterlina 2011 Esterlina Estate Vineyard Pinot Noir (Anderson Valley)

Murrieta's Well 2012 "The Whip" (Livermore Valley)

Urban Legend 2012 Sauvignon Blanc