Individual Hazelnut Chocolate Truffle Filled Sponge Cakes

by Angie Ouellette-Tower

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3 eggs
4 Dark Chocolate Lindt Truffles (wrapping removed)
1/4 cup milk
1/4 cup butter
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3/4 cup finely grated hazelnuts (click HERE to view the best nut grinder)
1/3 cup plus 1 tablespoon flour
1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
powdered sugar for dusting
(4 ramekins - sprayed or buttered & dusted with flour)

Begin by melting the butter and then once melted, remove from heat - set aside to cool to lukewarm. In a large bowl - mix together the milk, eggs, extract & sugar (you may use a whisk but do not whip until frothy). Now add the butter into the egg/sugar mixture & stir until combined. Add in the flour & hazelnuts and stir with a wooden spoon until fully blended. Pour equal amounts of the batter into the Ramekins (which should already have been sprayed). Now place 1 truffle in the middle of each batter filled ramekin. Press the truffle down until the batter covers the top of the truffle (see pictures above & below).

(IMPORTANT NOTE: The success of this dessert depends on the size of the ramekin - if you are using a wider more shallow ramekin then the truffle will not be covered with cake batter & therefore will not work)

Bake in a preheated 450 degree oven for 9 to 14 minutes (NOTE: Every oven is different - if you are making this for the first time I would bake 1 Ramekin first & then test to make sure it bakes to your desired texture. The perfect time for my oven is 10.5 minutes). Remove the Ramekins from the oven & place on a cooling rack for at least 15 minutes. While they are cooling - take a knife and gently run around the edges.

After 15 (plus) minutes - invert each Individual Sponge Cake on a plate & then dust with powdered sugar (see picture below).

Serve immediately for a gooey chocolate middle or allow to cool for a creamy smooth chocolate middle & ENJOY!

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