Pumpkin Pie Muffins 12 large or 30 small

INGREDIENTS:

- ¼ medium pumpkin (to make one cup cooked)
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup vegetable oil (plus extra for greasing muffin tins)
- 2 eggs
- 1 2/3 cups flour
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup dark chocolate chips (optional)

EQUIPMENT:

- Chef's knife
- Chopping board
- Medium saucepan
- Sieve or colander
- Mixing bowls
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Stick blender or potato masher
- Stirring spoon
- Muffin tray (or 2 to 3 mini muffin tins)
- Pastry brush

METHOD:

- 1. Pumpkin purée can be prepared ahead of time (see notes). Prepare pumpkin by carefully chopping into smaller pieces, discarding the skin.
- 2. Place the pumpkin in a medium sized saucepan, cover with cold water and bring to the boil. Simmer the pumpkin 10-15 minutes until tender (stick a fork into a piece, if the fork slips in easily it is done)
- 3. Remove the saucepan from the heat and drain carefully into a colander or sieve over a sink. Make sure the pumpkin is well drained or it might make your batter sloppy.
- 4. Allow pumpkin to cool 5-10 minutes before place in a mixing bowl and blending or mashing to form a smooth purée.
- 5. Preheat oven to 180°c and brush muffin tins with oil to prevent muffins sticking.
- 6. Carefully crack eggs into a mixing bowl and add oil, vanilla, pumpkin and sugar. Mix till combined.
- 7. In a separate bowl mix flour, salt, baking soda, nutmeg and cinnamon.
- 8.Add the dry ingredients to the pumpkin mixture and fold gently to combine. Fold through the chocolate chips if using.
- 9. Spoon the mixture into the greased muffin tins.
- 10. Carefully place in the oven and cook for 15-18 minutes or until muffins spring back when lightly touched.
- 11. Carefully remove cooked muffins from the oven and allow to cool for 5 minutes before removing from muffin tins.
- 12. Place on a serving platter and enjoy as they are or with GTT lightly salted butter.

