ST. NICHOLAS DAY · DECEMBER 6

St. Nicholas speculaas cookies

Prep 25 min **Cook** 14 min **Chill** 1 hr **Total** 1 hr 39 min **Makes** About 30 cookies **Level** Easy

ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED

Cooking is for children and grown-ups together. An adult should supervise at all times and handle the oven, stovetop, knives, and anything hot.

ALLERGY INFORMATION

Contains wheat (gluten) and milk. The optional almond topping is a tree nut; leave it off for anyone with a nut allergy. Always read ingredient labels, since brands vary, and ask about food allergies before you cook or share.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups (250 g) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1 tbsp speculaas spice (or 2 tsp cinnamon plus ½ tsp each nutmeg and ginger and ¼ tsp each cloves and cardamom)
- ½ cup plus 2 tbsp (140 g) butter, softened
- ¾ cup (150 g) packed dark brown sugar
- 2 to 3 tbsp milk
- ⅓ cup (35 g) sliced almonds (optional)

METHOD

1. Whisk the flour, baking powder, salt, and spice together in a bowl.
2. In a larger bowl, beat the butter and brown sugar until smooth.
3. Add the flour mixture and 2 tablespoons of milk and mix to a firm dough, adding a little more milk if it is crumbly.
4. Flatten the dough into a disk, wrap it, and chill for at least 1 hour (overnight gives even more flavor).
5. Heat the oven to 350°F (175°C) and line two baking sheets. Roll the dough about ⅛ to ¼ inch (4–5 mm) thick on a floured surface.
6. Cut rectangles or shapes such as stars, hearts, or a bishop’s miter. Press a few almond slices onto each one if you like.
7. Bake 12 to 15 minutes, until firm and slightly darker at the edges. Cool on the sheet for 5 minutes, then move to a rack.

LITTLE HELPERS CAN (WITH A GROWN-UP)

- Whisk the spices into the flour
- Cut shapes with cookie cutters
- Press almonds on top
- Help set out shoes on St. Nicholas Eve

GOOD TO KNOW

- The cookies crisp up as they cool and keep for 2 weeks in an airtight tin.
- Wrapped dough keeps 3 days in the fridge or 3 months in the freezer.

A BLESSING BEFORE WE EAT

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen. Saint Nicholas, pray for us, and help us give to others with joy.