

THE BIG WAN

Tara-Lynne O'Neill

INGREDIENTS

CAKE

- 150g unsalted butter
- 150g sunflower oil (or vegetable)
- 150g white chocolate
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- 5 large eggs
- 150g caster sugar
- 150g light brown sugar
- 300g self raising flour
- ½ tsp baking powder

ITALIAN MERINGUE BUTTERCREAM

- 4 large egg whites
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp cream of tartar
- 275g caster sugar
- 5 tbsp water
- 450g unsalted butter
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WHITE CHOCOLATE HAZELNUT CREAM

- 170g whole hazelnuts no skins
- 300g white chocolate
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- ½ tsp vanilla extract

TO DECORATE

- Whole hazelnuts
- Gold lustre dust
- 50g melted white chocolate
- 10-15 Kinder Bueno bars

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STANDARD METHOD

Preheat the oven to 160°c fan and grease & line two 8" cake tins.

Melt the butter and white chocolate together, then add the oil and set aside to cool. Whisk these together in a stand mixer and add the vanilla extract. Whisk in the eggs one at a time, alternating with the sugars.

Slowly incorporate the flour and baking powder until just combined.

Split the mixture equally between the two tins and bake for approx 35-40 minutes, until a skewer comes out clean. Cool in their tins for 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack. Split the cakes horizontally once cool.

HAZELNUT CREAM

To make the filling, toast the hazelnuts in a dry pan for 2-3 minutes, making sure they don't burn. Let them cool completely then puree them to a fine powder. Melt the white chocolate, then add this plus the oil and vanilla to the nuts. Blend until smooth, then cool.

BUTTERCREAM

Whisk the egg whites, salt and cream of tartar until the soft peak stage and slowly add in approx ¼ of the sugar. Heat the rest of the sugar with water until it reaches 235-240°f. Slowly stream this into the meringue mix and whisk until cool.

Switch to the paddle attachment and on a medium speed slowly incorporate the butter in small amounts until it forms a buttercream texture.

Fill and stack your sponges and decorate with a piping bag, nozzle and lots of kinder Bueno. Drizzle with white chocolate and liberally scatter with gold nuts.