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Plantain-White Chocolate Empanadas with Ginger-Guava Sauce

Serves 12

Ingredients: 2 Tbsp. Butter 2 Tbsp. Vegetable Oil 1/2 tsp. Almond Extract 1/4 cup Brown Sugar 2 large Ripe Plantains , peeled, cut into ¼" slices 2 cups Cream Cheese , softened 2/3 cup White Chocolate Chips 2/3 cup Macadamia Nuts , coarsely chopped 1/2 tsp. Allspice 1/2 tsp. Ground Ginger 12 Mission® 6" Pressed Mazina™ Tortillas (08042) 1 Tbsp. Cornstarch 2 Tbsp. Cold Water 4 Tbsp. Unsalted Butter , melted

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.

2. To sauté bananas, heat butter, and oil in a heavy medium skillet over medium heat. Add almond extract and brown sugar. Mix until well incorporated. Add plantains and sauté for about 5 minutes, until softened. Set aside.

3. In a medium bowl, mix together cream cheese, chocolate chips, nuts, allspice and ginger. Cover and refrigerate.

4. To assemble empanadas, place 1 1/2 Tbs. cream cheese filling on one side of each tortilla. Top with 1-2 banana slices and fold over like a taco. Seal edges with cornstarch slurry and generously brush melted butter over each empanada.

5. Place on a lightly greased baking sheet and bake for about 8 minutes, until golden brown.

 Dust empanadas with powdered sugar and serve with gingered guava dipping sauce. (See Related Recipe)

7. NOTE: When selecting plantains, pick ones that have plenty of black marks as that indicates a soft texture and sweet flavor. Do not use green or yellow plantains as the texture will be too hard and will have a raw unweetened flavor to them.



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Gingered Guava Dipping Sauce

Serves 1

Ingredients:

1 lbs. (1 cup) Guava Preserves
4 tsp. Fresh Ginger , minced
4 oz. (1/4 cup) Honey

Directions:

1. In a small saucepan over low heat, mix all ingredients together until sauce reaches a smooth, glazy consistency. About 2 minutes.

2. * If Guava preserves are not available, another tropical fruit flavored preserve may be used.