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Bittersweet Mousse with Cinnamon Poached Pears

8 oz. bittersweet or semisweet chocolate, coarsely chopped
2 egg yolks, beaten
1/3 c. sugar
1/4 c. water
1 1/2 c. whipping cream
1 recipe Cinnamon Poached Pears
Whipped cream (opt)
Chocolate shavings (opt)

In a small saucepan combine chopped chocolate, egg yolks, sugar, water, & 1/2 c. of the whipping cream. Cook & stir over medium heat until mixture starts to bubble around edges. Remove from heat. Pour into a large bowl set in a bowl of ice water. Coll 15–20 minutes, stirring frequently. In a chilled mixing bowl beat remaining 1 c. whipping cream with chilled beaters just until thickened (do not beat to soft peaks or mousse will be too stiff). Fold into cooled chocolate mixture. Cover & chill in the refrigerator 2–24 hrs. Spoon the mousse into individual bowls. Serve with Cinnamon Poached Pears. If desired, top mousse with additional whipped cream & chocolate shavings. Makes 8 servings.

CINNAMON POACHED PEARS

8 small to medium pears (about 3 lb. total)
1 (750-ml) bottle dry white wine or 3 c. apple juice
2 c. water
1 c. sugar
1 (2-in) piece peeled fresh ginger, cut into strips
3 inches stick cinnamon, broken

Peel pears, leaving stems intact. Cut a thin slice from the top of each pear so pears stand up. If desired, use a melon baller to remove the core through the bot-

tom of each pear. meanwhile, in a 4-qt Dutch oven combine the wine, water, sugar, ginger, & cinnamon. Cook, uncovered, over medium heat until hently boiling, stirring occasionally to dissolve sugar. Add the pears. Return liquid just oto boiling. Reduce heat. Simmer, covered, about 15 min. or until pears are just tender. Remove from heat & cool pears slightly in syrup. Transfer to a very large bowl. Cover & chill 2–24 hrs. Drain pears to serve. Makes 8 servings.

Timberline Hot Chocolate

4 c. milk
1/2 c. water
1/2 c. sugar
8 oz. bittersweet or semisweet chocolate, coarsely chopped
1 recipe Schlag (opt)
English toffee, crushed (opt)
Unsweetened cocoa powder (opt)

In a saucepan combine milk, water, & sugar. Stir over medium heat until mixture comes just to a boiling. Remove from heat. Stir in chocolate. Beat with an immersion blender, rotary mixer, or whisk until chocolate is melted & mixture is frothy. To serve, pour hot chocolate into cups. If desired, top with Schlag, English toffee, & cocoa powder. Makes 4–6 servings.

SCHLAG (Whipped Cream): In a mixing bowl combine 1 c. whipping cream, 3 T. sugar, & 2 t. vanilla. Beat until soft peaks form (tips curl).

Sparkling Sorbet Floats

Place 2 melon-ball-size scoops of mango, peach, and/or strawberry sorbet in the bottom of a cordial or shot glass. Fill glass with chilled champagne or carbonated fruit juice. Makes 1 float.

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