



ANSON MILLS

Colonial Cornmeal Pound Cake

Yield

One 9 by 5-inch cake

Time

10 minutes to make the batter; 1 hour and 10 minutes to bake the cake

Baking Notes

We baked versions of this cake using Anson Mills Fine and Coarse Yellow Cornmeal. The results were not surprising: the cake made with the fine cornmeal had a finer texture; the cake made with the coarse cornmeal had bigger corn flavor. In other respects, they are interchangeable. You choose. It is best if all the ingredients for this recipe are at room temperature—including the flour and cornmeal—before you make the batter.

Equipment Mise en Place

For this recipe, you will need a digital kitchen scale, a 9 by 5-inch loaf pan, a fine tea strainer, a small bowl, a 2-cup liquid measuring cup, a medium mixing bowl, a stand mixer fitted with the flat-beater attachment, a rubber spatula, a small offset spatula, and a wire rack.

Ingredients

8 ounces (16 tablespoons) unsalted European-style butter, room temperature, plus additional for greasing the loaf pan
2.5 ounces (½ cup) Anson Mills Fine or Coarse Yellow Cornmeal, plus 1 tablespoon for dusting the loaf pan
7 ounces (1 cup) superfine sugar, plus 1 tablespoon for dusting the loaf pan
7.5 ounces (1½ cups plus 1½ tablespoons) Anson Mills Colonial Style Fine Cloth-Bolted Pastry Flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
Scant ½ teaspoon fine sea salt
4 large eggs, room temperature
3 tablespoons orange-flower water
2 tablespoons dry sherry
2 tablespoons whole milk, room temperature
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions

1. Adjust an oven rack to the lower-middle position and heat the oven to 325 degrees. Generously butter a 9 by 5-inch loaf pan. Sift the 1 tablespoon cornmeal through a fine tea strainer into a small bowl. Discard the coarse particles in the strainer or return them to the bag of cornmeal. Add the 1 tablespoon sugar to the sifted cornmeal and stir to combine. Dust the

buttered loaf pan with the cornmeal-sugar mixture, tilting to coat the bottom and sides, and then knock out the excess. Set the pan aside.

2. Turn the cornmeal, flour, baking powder, and salt into a medium mixing bowl and whisk to combine. Crack the eggs into a 2-cup liquid measuring cup. Add the orange-flower water, sherry, milk, and vanilla and beat lightly with a fork until combined.

3. Beat the butter in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the flat-beater attachment until light and fluffy, about 2 minutes. Scrape down the bowl with a rubber spatula. With the mixer running on medium-low speed, add the sugar, then increase the speed to medium-high and beat until the mixture is light and aerated, about 3 minutes, scraping down the bowl once or twice. With the mixer running on low speed, add the dry ingredients in 3 batches alternating with the egg mixture in 2 batches, beginning and ending with the dry ingredients and scraping down the bowl 2 or 3 times. When all of the ingredients have been incorporated, detach the bowl from the mixer and fold the batter lightly with the rubber spatula to ensure that no wet or dry pockets remain.

4. Scrape the batter into the prepared loaf pan and, using a small offset spatula, spread it to the sides and corners of the pan and smooth the surface. Bake, rotating the pan after 35 minutes, until the cake is deep golden brown, nicely risen, and a wooden skewer or toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, about 1 hour and 10 minutes. Let the cake cool in the pan on a wire rack for 5 minutes. Invert the cake onto the rack, turn it right side up, and let cool to room temperature.