Chocolate Filled Bread

Ingredients:

Bread Ingredients

- 228 260 ounces bread flour 1 3/4cups 2 cups
- 56.7 grams butter, melted and cooled 4 tablespoons
- 4 fluid ounces milk* 1/2 cup
- 2 1/4 teaspoon active dry yeast
- 50 grams white sugar
- 1 large egg room temperature
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Chocolate Filling

- 11/2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 112 grams almonds, roasted 1/2 cup
- 70.8 grams butter 5 tablespoons
- 56 grams crystallized ginger a packed 1/4 cup

Chocolate Drizzle

58 grams chocolate of choice 2 ounces

Directions:

Bread Dough

Heat your milk to just lukewarm and add one or two teaspoons of the sugar and the yeast. Stir, and let proof until foamy.

Combine 228 grams or 1 3/4 cups flour, butter, remaining sugar, the egg, and vanilla into the bowl of your stand mixer, or a large mixing bowl. Add in foamy yeast and milk mixture.

Place on your stand mixer, fitted with a dough hook, and turn on low. You can also mix by hand.

When a dough has formed and the flour is absorbed, turn the mixer to high, or begin to knead and work the dough. Add flour in tablespoons as needed if dough is too sticky to handle, or sticking to the sides and bottom of the bowl.

Knead until soft, tacky, and smooth, 7 to 8 minutes on the stand mixer, and around 10 by hand.

Cover and let rise in a warm place for about an hour, or until doubled in size.

Make the Filling

In the last 20 minutes of your dough's first rise, combine all the filling ingredients in the bowl of your stand mixer.

Blend until it forms a sticky, grainy paste, similar to wet sand. Set aside.

Shaping and Baking

When the dough is risen, turn out onto a clean non stick surface, or lightly flour work surface. Gently shape the dough into a 15×12 inch rectangle.

Working from top to bottom along the 15 inch side, cut one inch strips from the edge of the dough to about 1/3 of the way in.

Repeat on the other side, leaving the middle third of the dough for the chocolate filling.

Place the chocolate filling along the middle of the dough, leaving 1/2 inch at the top and bottom. Mold the filling evenly and flatten it gently to about 1 inch thick, before braiding for best results and even chocolate distribution.

Begin folding, starting by tucking the top 1/2 inch down over the top edge of the chocolate filling.

Working from one side to the other gently lay strips across the filling, pressing the end into the base of the strip diagonally below it.

Notes

*You'll need a bit of extra milk for brushing on the loaf before baking as well.