



Bohemia – now part of Czechia (Czech Republic), Eastern Europe

Kolacky

Fruit filled pastry cookies

1 cup butter, at room temperature

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese (at room temperature)

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2-1/4 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon salt

Thick jam or Solo pastry filling, apricot, raspberry, poppyseeds or as desired

Topping: Non-melting confectioners' sugar

- In a mixing bowl, cream butter and cream cheese until fluffy. Beat in vanilla extract.
- In a small bowl, combine flour and salt; add in fourths to butter mixture, blending well after each addition. Chill dough about 30 minutes or only until easy to handle.
- Roll dough into about ¼ inch thickness on the floured surface. Cut out 3-inch circles or other shapes. Place on parchment lined or ungreased baking sheets.
- Make a thumbprint about 1/8 inch deep in each cookie. Fill with pastry filling.
- Bake at 350 degrees F. oven for about 15 minutes or until delicately browned on edges.
- Sprinkle with non-melting confectioners' sugar before serving.
Yield: about 3-1/2 dozen

Recipe from: *Polish Cookbook*, Culinary Arts Institute, 1976.

Cook's Note: I use Solo pastry fillings as they are thick and don't melt in the oven, like some jams do. I baked our kolacky on the upper shelf of our oven.

About the Recipe: The cream cheese dough is easy to make and roll out. Simply chill in the refrigerator until desired rolling temperature. Use an upside round glass or circle form to cut rounds and fill with your favorite thick pastry or jam fillings. A light sprinkle of confectioners' sugar adds a nice sweetness to these elegant ethnic pastries, that melt in your mouth.

Eastern European Most Treasured Cookie:

Called cookies, pastries, or dessert, this sweet-filled pastry is a favorite of many East Europeans. Although kolacky are generally thought of as Bohemian or Czech, Poles in some areas prize the variety of fillings for these pastries almost as much as the variety of toppings for mazurkas.

Where is Bohemia located today?

Czechoslovakia peacefully separated into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993 (an act that came to be known as the Velvet Divorce) with Bohemia comprising the central and western portions of the former. Today, they are part of Czechia.

For More Information See:

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Bohemia>