

## Brown Butter Baklava Sticky Buns

JANET GILL, CANTON, OHIO<br>2023 National Festival of Breads<br>Go Nuts Category Honorable Mention

## INGREDIENTS

## BROWN BUTTER

$11 / 4$ cups unsalted butter, cut in tablespoons

## TANGZHONG

3 tablespoons whole milk
3 tablespoons water
2 tablespoons KING ARTHUR*
Unbleached All-Purpose Flour

## DOUGH

$41 / 4-41 / 2$ cups KING ARTHUR ${ }^{\circ}$
Unbleached All-Purpose Flour
1 ( $1 / 4$-ounce) package RED STAR ${ }^{*}$ Platinum Superior Baking Yeast ${ }^{\circ}$ 1 teaspoon salt
1 cup whole milk
$1 / 3$ cup honey
1 large egg, room temperature

## FILLING

$1 / 2$ cup finely chopped walnuts
$1 / 2$ cup finely chopped unsalted pistachios
2/3 cup granulated sugar
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

## TOPPING

3 tablespoons whole milk
3 tablespoons honey
$1 / 2$ cup granulated sugar
$1 / 2$ teaspoon freshly grated orange zest
$1 / 2$ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
Chopped pistachios and walnuts, optional garnish

## DIRECTIONS

1. For brown butter: In medium, light-colored saucepan over low to medium heat melt butter, stirring constantly. The butter will foam, flecks will form and quickly darken (about 10 minutes). When flecks become a medium brown and have a nutty aroma, immediately pour butter into heatproof bowl and set aside. Each time it is used in recipe, stir well to distribute brown flecks.
2. For tangzhong: In saucepan, whisk milk, water and flour until no lumps remain. Whisk and cook over medium heat until thick; set aside to cool slightly.
3. For dough: In the bowl of stand mixer fitted with paddle, combine $4 \frac{1}{4}$ cups flour, yeast and salt. In microwavable bowl, heat $1 / 3$ cup brown butter, milk and honey to very warm, $120^{\circ} \mathrm{F}-130^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. Add this mixture, tangzhong and egg to bowl. Mix on low 1 minute until well combined. Exchange paddle for dough hook and begin kneading. If needed, add a tablespoon of additional flour at a time, until dough cleans sides of bowl. Dough should feel tacky. Knead 8-10 minutes, or until smooth and elastic. Place dough in greased bowl. Cover; let rise until doubled, about 1 hour. Prepare filling while dough rises.
4. For filling: Remove $1 / 3$ cup brown butter for topping and set aside. In medium bowl, combine filling ingredients with remaining brown butter to form a crumb mixture.
5. Line two large 14 " $\times 16^{\prime \prime}$ cookie sheets with parchment paper.
6. Deflate dough and divide in half. If needed, lightly flour work surface, and roll half of dough into an $8 " \times 16 "$ rectangle. If the filling has cooled and formed clumps, break it up with fork. With long side facing you, sprinkle $1 / 4$ of filling evenly over the middle $1 / 3$ of dough. Fold the right $1 / 3$ of dough over the filling. Sprinkle $1 / 4$ of the filling over top, then fold left side of dough over and pinch all edges together. Roll filled dough to a 10 " x 10 " square. Cut into 10 one-inch strips.
7. To form buns, hold each end of a strip and twist several times in opposite directions. Coil twisted strip of dough around itself forming a circle and tuck end under roll. Place buns 2" apart on prepared baking sheets. Cover with plastic wrap; repeat with remaining dough. Place in warm place to rise until doubled, or finger indentation remains when dough is touched, 30-40 minutes. Make topping while rolls are rising. Preheat oven to $350^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$.
8. For topping: In a small saucepan, add the reserved $1 / 3$ cup brown butter, milk, honey, sugar and orange zest. Stirring frequently, bring to a boil over medium heat and cook 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Set aside to cool and thicken slightly.
9. Bake rolls until light golden brown, 15-20 minutes. Remove from oven. Generously brush rolls with topping. If desired, sprinkle on nuts for garnish. Return to oven and bake 3-5 minutes until rolls are golden brown and internal temperature is $190^{\circ} \mathrm{F}-195^{\circ} \mathrm{F}$. Transfer to wire rack.

NUTRITION INFORMATION PER SERVING (1 BUN, 91g): 330 calories, 15 g total fat, 8 g saturated fat, 0 g trans fat, 40 mg cholesterol, 125 mg sodium, 43 g total carbohydrate, 2 g dietary fiber, 20 g total sugars, 6 g protein, 6 mcg folate, 0 mg vitamin C, 0 mg iron.

