

Christmas pudding

Ingredients

For the pudding

- 450g/1lb dried mixed fruit (use a mixture of sultanas, raisins, and snipped apricots)
- 1 small cooking apple, peeled, cored and roughly chopped
- 1 orange, finely grated rind and juice
- 3 tbsp brandy, sherry, or rum, plus extra for flaming
- 75g/3oz butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
- 100g/3½oz light muscovado sugar
- 2 free-range eggs
- 100g/4oz self-raising flour
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 40g/1½oz fresh white breadcrumbs
- 40g/1½oz whole shelled almonds, roughly chopped

For the brandy butter

- 100g/3½oz unsalted butter, softened
- 225g/8oz icing sugar, sieved
- 3 tbsp brandy, rum or cognac

