Chocolate Pecan Torte

Patty Jinich "Nana Jo's" 10 servings

- 56 g unsalted butter, plus 1 tablespoon for buttering the pan
- 168 g bittersweet chocolate
- 125 g pecans
- 6 large eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 200 g sugar
- Pinch of coarse sea salt
- Confectioners sugar, optional
- · Lightly sweetened whipped cream, optional
- Berries, optional



- 1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Butter a 23-cm springform pan and line bottom with parchment paper.
- 2. Bring about 5 cm of water to a simmer in the bottom half of a double boiler or in a medium saucepan. Place the top half of the double boiler, or a metal bowl or heatproof pan if not using a double boiler, over the simmering water and melt together the **chocolate** and the **butter**. Set aside to cool.
- 3. Using a blender, chop the **pecans** finely.
- 4. Add the **eggs**, **vanilla**, **sugar**, **salt** and melted **chocolate mixture**, blending until smooth.
- 5. Pour the batter into the buttered springform pan and bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out moist but not wet, **about 35 minutes** (check at 30 minutes).
- 6. Once it has cooled a little, run the tip of a knife around the pan and release the cake from the pan. Invert onto a plate, and then again, or serve directly onto plates if left on bottom part of springform pan. If desired, sprinkle with **confectioners sugar** and serve with **whipped cream** and **berries**.