Pretzel Bites with Cheddar-Mustard Dip

Serves 8 - 10

If you go to the Munich Oktoberfest, you're bound to enjoy a pretzel or two! Distinguished from crispy, thin versions, these pretzels are more bread than cracker. The classic bread pretzel typically appears as a knot, but our version features small, pillowy bites, suitable for a one-to-two bite experience. We've paired these pretzel bites with a simple four-ingredient dip that complements these salty bites perfectly!

Pretzel Bites

3 cups bread flour, plus more for dusting

- 1 tablespoon Kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 4 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 pkg, active dry yeast
- 1 cup warm water

Oil for coating the bowl

- 2.5 quarts water (10 cups)
- 8 tablespoons baking soda.
- 1 egg, beaten

Cheddar-Mustard Dip

8 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, coarsely grated1/2 cup beer (or water)1 tablespoon stoneground mustardPinch of cayenne

Pretzel Bite Directions:

- 1. In the bowl of a stand mixer outfitted with a paddle, stir together the flour, and salt.
- 2. In a small bowl, place the butter, cut into small chunks, and sugar. Pour in hot water (about 110°F), sprinkle the yeast on top and allow to set until the yeast blooms. Stir gently until the butter has softened or fully melted.
- 3. Pour the yeast mixture into the flour mixture with the stand mixer running on its lowest setting. Beat until well-combined. Shift to dough hook and knead the dough for about 3-4 minutes on low speed.
- 4. Transfer the dough to an oiled bowl. Cover and allow to rise until doubled about 1- to-1.5 hours. Punch down and knead into a ball. Return to the oiled bowl, cover with plastic wrap and place in the refrigerator for 1 hour, or up to 24 hours.
- 5. Preheat the oven to 425°F.

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- 6. Turn the dough onto a lightly dusted surface and form a ball. Cut the dough ball into four parts with a dough cutter. Roll each quarter-piece into a long rope about 1-inch in diameter. Cut each rope into 1-to-1.5-inch pieces, about 8-10 pieces from each rope. (If desired, roll each piece into a ball if you prefer a more finished look.)
- 7. Using a large pot, measure 2.5 quarts of water and 8 tablespoons baking soda. Bring to a rolling boil. Boil the dough pieces in batches without overcrowding the pan by plopping 10-12 dough pieces into the boiling water. As they rise to the surface of the water (which they will do quickly about 30 seconds), remove them with a slotted spoon and spread on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Repeat the process until all batches are complete. Brush the top of each pretzel piece with the egg wash. Immediately sprinkle with coarse salt while still wet.
- 8. Immediately bake in the hot, pre-heated oven for 10 minutes, watching closely. The pretzel bites will turn nicely brown. Cool on a cooling rack. Enjoy while still warm, or store in an airtight container once cooled for up to 24 hours.

Cheddar-Mustard Dip Directions:

9. In a small saucepan, heat the beer (or water). Add the stoneground mustard and cayenne, and stir to combine. Add the grated cheese; stir gently to melt the cheese while continuing to heat over low heat. Transfer to a heatproof bowl and serve while warm.