Chocolate Chai and Spiced Orange Truffles

PREP TIME: 35 minutes **CHILL TIME:** 2 hours 30 minutes

COOK TIME: 10 minutes

FOR THE GANACHE:

7 oz dark chocolate (70% cocoa), finely 1 T <u>Spiced Blood Orange</u> tea leaves

chopped 2 T unsalted butter, room temperature

1/2 C heavy cream 1 T honey (optional, for sweetness)

1 T Chocolate Chai Pu-Erh tea leaves

FOR COATING:

Cocoa powder Shredded coconut

Finely chopped nuts (e.g., pistachios, almonds)

INFUSE THE CREAM:

1. In a small saucepan, heat the heavy cream until it just begins to simmer. Remove from heat.

- Add the Chocolate Chai Pu-erh Tea leaves and Spicy Blood Orange Tea leaves to the cream. Cover and steep for 10 minutes.
- 3. Strain the cream through a fine mesh sieve to remove the tea leaves, pressing down to extract as much flavor as possible.

MAKE THE GANACHE:

- 1. Place the finely chopped dark chocolate in a heatproof bowl.
- 2. Reheat the infused cream until it's hot but not boiling, then pour it over the chopped chocolate. Let it sit for a minute to melt the chocolate.
- 3. Stir the mixture gently until smooth and fully combined.
- 4. Add the unsalted butter and honey (if using), stirring until the butter is melted and the mixture is glossy.

CHILL THE GANACHE:

1. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 2 hours, or until the ganache is firm enough to scoop.

FORM THE TRUFFLES:

- 1. Using a small spoon or melon baller, scoop out small portions of the ganache and roll them into balls between your palms.
- 2. Roll each truffle in your choice of coating (cocoa powder, chopped nuts, shredded coconut) until fully covered.

SERVE AND ENJOY:

- 1. Place the truffles on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and refrigerate for about 30 minutes to set.
- 2. Store the truffles in an airtight container in the refrigerator. Let them sit at room temperature for a few minutes before serving to enhance the flavors.