

## Flan de Coco al Caramelo (Caramelized Coconut Flan)

Serves 8:

## **For the caramel:** 1/2 cup sugar

## For the flan:

4 cups whole milk 1 vanilla bean, split in half lengthwise Peel of 1 large lemon 5 egg yolks 5 whole eggs3/4 cup sugar3 tablespoons finest-quality Spanish brandy1/2 cup packed (or 3 ounces) sweet, shredded coconut

For the garnish: About 3 tablespoons shredded coconut Optional: Sweet berries like blueberries, raspberries, and fanned strawberries

**To prepare the caramel:** In a small heavy saucepan, dissolve the 1/2 cup sugar in 2 tablespoons water. Cook over medium-high heat until sugar melts and turns brown (don't stir, just shake pan around). Immediately pour caramel into a 5-cup ring mold. With oven mittens on both hands, rotate mold gently, swirling caramel to cover bottom and some of the sides; keep moving mold around until caramel is almost set.

## To prepare the flan: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Combine milk, vanilla bean, and lemon peel in a saucepan and cook over low heat for 10 minutes. Cover and set aside for 15 minutes. In a food processor beat egg yolks, eggs and sugar until light and foamy. Discard vanilla bean and lemon peel. Pour hot milk into egg mixture in a slow steady stream, beating constantly (it will make lots of foam). Stir in brandy and 1/2 cup coconut. Immediately pour mixture into mold and place it inside a larger pan filled with boiling water 1/3 way up the mold. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 to 50 minutes (depending on the oven), until a cake tester comes out clean.

Let flan cool at room temperature, and chill. Meanwhile, in a dry skillet toast 3 tablespoons coconut for the garnish, stirring, until golden.

**To assemble the dish:** Unmold flan onto a dessert platter with a rim. Spoon caramel left in mold on top of the flan. Garnish with toasted coconut around the top of the flan and berries around it. Serve at room temperature or chilled.

**Wine Pairing:** Marimar Estate Blanc de Noirs Recipe from: *The Spanish Table,* page 217 by Marimar Torres