LEMON MACARONS

(filling slightly modified from Indulge with Mimi)

for macaron shells, use this recipe

Divide the batter in two, dye one portion yellow, one portion green. Pipe shells starting with one color and piping the other in the center.

for the curd: zest of two lemons 76 grams lemon juice 2 eggs 50 grams butter, unsalted 180 grams granulated sugar

for the buttercream: 60 grams butter 160 grams powdered sugar 2 tablespoons lemon curd heavy cream to adjust consistency, if needed

Optional decoration: fondant lemon slices, painted with airbrush and pearl dust.

Make the curd: cream butter and sugar together until incorporated and lighter in color. Add the eggs and beat until incorporated, then add the lemon juice and whisk well. Transfer the mixture to a microwave-safe bowl and cook at 80% power for about 4 and a half minutes, stopping to stir gently every 45 seconds or so. The temperature should reach 180F to 185F. Remove from heat, immediately add the lemon zest and pass through a sieve to have a very smooth curd. Let it cool to room temperature with a plastic wrap touching the surface. Transfer to the fridge until needed for the macarons. It is perfect making one day in advance.

For the Lemon Buttercream: Use a hand-held electric mixer and whisk the butter until creamy. Add the other ingredients except the heavy cream, and whisk until creamy and smooth. If needed, add a bit of heavy cream to loosen the mixture. Pair shells of the same size and add a center of lemon curd, with a circle of buttercream all around it. Glue a lemon slice on top of the macaron using Royal icing. Keep the macarons in the fridge for 24 hours before serving.