Tahchin-e Bademjan - Saffron Rice Cake with Caramelised Barberries and Aubergine/Eggplant Filling

Ingredients for 4 portions

1 large aubergine/eggplant

250g / 8.8oz strained yogurt or Greek style yogurt.

Strained yogurt is denser and more sour than Greek yogurt. You can find it in Turkish supermarkets. Measured in cups you will need 1/2 cup. If you are using Greek yogurt, you will need 1 cup full.

5 tbsp dried barberries

1 egg

- 5 tbsp sugar
- 7 to 9 tbsp vegetable oil
- 3 tbsp butter (optional)
- 1/2 tsp saffron
- 3 ice cubes
- 2 tbsp salt, plus extra to taste
- A few tbsp slivered pistachios and almonds (optional)