Hispanics and the Holidays: CHRISTMAS

Holidays in the Hispanic culture are surrounded by unique cultural tradition and symbolism around religion, family, and food.



斗 Hispanics

💫 Non-Hispanic Whites (NHW)

A Festive Occasion Enjoyed By Many Hispanics



A Variety of Foods & Drinks Consumed on Christmas

How Christmas is Celebrated



Christmas than (relative's house, someone else's or elsewhere)

Everything about Christmas is enjoyable, from the meaning behind it to the music, movies, sights, and smells. It has a feeling of love and family.

Where Hispanics Grocery Shop During Christmas

NHW



intimate settings

such as their homes

DID YOU KNOW?

- There is a deeply rooted tradition among Hispanic families to celebrate Christmas on the eve of December 24th rather than on the 25th. The custom is rooted in Christian tradition to commemorate the anticipated arrival of Jesus Christ.
 - Christmas Eve is commonly called "Noche Buena," literally translating to "The Good Night."
- Among those of Catholic faith, many go to Misa de Gallo (Rooster's Mass), a religious ritual celebrated at midnight, marking the start of Christmas Day, December 25th.
- Within Mexican tradition, many families spend up to nine days before Christmas celebrating Posadas: going from home to home and celebrating the impending arrival of Christmas surrounded by traditional carols, foods, and desserts; bonding over friends and family time travel in the new year.
 - Posadas commemorates Mary and Joseph's search for an inn by forming a procession to that evening's location and symbolically asking for shelter.



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Hispanics and the Holidays: NEW YEAR'S

Non-Hispanic Whites (NHW)

The New Year is a festive celebration in the Hispanic culture with symbolism and many rituals, as well as family, friends, and food.





DID YOU KNOW?

Hispanics

Many unique and fun traditions revolve around New Year's celebrations as Hispanics wave goodbye to the past year and say hello to what's to come.

- Some Hispanics wear red and yellow underwear to call for good fortune in love and financial prosperity respectively.
- Family members join and eat 12 grapes at the stroke of midnight to ensure prosperity in the coming year, often making a wish or a promise for each of the twelve months of the new year.
- Hispanics love to travel! If you see your Hispanic neighbor running around the block when the clock strikes midnight, don't be surprised if they have a suitcase with them as they call on good fortune to increase their chances of travel in the new year.
- A few other fun traditions and rituals orbiting around superstition and faith include:
 - Sweeping 'dirt' out of the house (literally, with a broom in hand) or throwing a bucketful of water out the window to kick out all the bad of the old year. Think about it as a way of cleaning out the energy around you.
 - Throwing grains (usually lentils, rice, corn, etc.) over the shoulder shoulder, and sometimes into the home's roof, to channel a fruitful year with abundance of food.
 - Like New Year's resolutions, Hispanics among some cultures **write down their wishes for the year** and then burn those pieces of paper to elevate their request. In some versions of this tradition, the bad things that happened in the year rather than their wishes for the new one are written on the papers.

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