

ound the world

seasonal summer foods. Salads, roast chicken, fresh-fruit-topped Pavlova... and an abundance of the freshest prawns. Traditionally, many Christian Australians attend midnight Mass, then head to church on Christmas Day as well. Afterwards, there's a midday dinner with families and friends that will be spent as either an outdoor barbecue or eating a traditional British Christmas dinner of roast turkey and plum pudding.

In the Czech Republic many people fast the day of Christmas Eve, with only a little golden, sweet Christmas bread during the day, saving up for the large evening dinner. This will usually begin with either fish soup or mushroom kuba (a sort of risotto made with barley), followed by a main course that typically consists of fried carp and potato salad.

The main Norwegian Christmas celebration takes place with a big Christmas dinner on Christmas Eve. The choice of food varies depending on the area of Norway you are from, but often consists of lamb ribs, stockfish or sometimes cod. However, the clear favorite, eaten by as many as six out of 10 households, is Ribbe – roast pork belly. Traditionally served with boiled potatoes, sausages, meat cakes, prunes, lingonberries and pickled cabbage,

The German Christmas feast is historically centered around the Weihnachtsgans, the Christmas goose. A tradition dating back to the Middle Ages, eating goose was originally tied to St. Martin's Day, but eventually became part of the Christmas meal.



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Weihnachtsgans, the Christmas goose.

Often stuffed with apples, chestnuts, onions, and prunes, then spiced with mugwort and marjoram, the goose is served alongside red cabbage, dumplings, gravy and sauerkraut. The traditional Christmas dessert is a platter of the cookies called Weihnachtsplätzchen.

In southern Italy, the usual Christmas Eve meal is the "Feast of the Seven Fishes," also called La Vigilia. The meal is traditionally made up of only fish or shellfish — seven varieties, as the name suggests — and vegetable dishes. Octopus, anchovies, salt cod, shellfish, and clams are among the common ingredients, but the most traditional ingredient is capitone (eel).

In Israel, latkes, in some form or another, have been an important part of Hanukkah tradition. Latkes are fried potato pancakes that are cooked in oil. Other dishes enjoyed as a part of this tradition include fried donuts and fritter. Hanukkah gelt, small chocolate coins, are given to children by relatives.

Many families blend traditions and select different food ideas from the cornucopia of wonderful traditions of people all around the world.

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