

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

The United States is a melting pot where nationalities and their traditions blend and our Christmas celebrations would indicate just that. We have carols from England and Australia, trees from Germany and St. Nick in a red suit that originated in Scandinavia. His arrival through the chimney to fill stockings is reminiscent of the Netherlands. His sleigh drawn by reindeer began in Switzerland and our parades may be a carry-over from Latin processions. Of course the traditional feasting is typical of all nations. We have fattened up the jolly old man and blended all the traditions until he comes down the chimney on Christmas Eve, leaves gifts and stockings filled with treats and departs in a sleigh drawn by eight tiny reindeer.

Shiraz - Parker Brothers

Australian, Barossa Valley - deep plum red, with a bold nose, oak derived complexity with notes of cinnamon, clove, allspice, vanilla, coconut, figs, and dark plums
Glass \$9 Bottle \$34

New Zealand Half Rack of Lamb

Christmas in New Zealand includes decorations, Christmas trees, gifts, stockings, carols and barbecuing. Christmas feasts are more often a casual affair, in the backyard or at the beach. A popular gift is a pair of jandals, a shoe that is a combination of sandals and flip-flops. Father Christmas is often shown wearing them. A ROASTED HALF RACK OF LAMB, COOKED TO YOUR LIKING, SERVED WITH A MINTED DEMI ACCOMPANIED WITH ROSEMARY ROASTED POTATO AND VEGETABLE.
\$32

Cotoletta (Veal) ala Milanese (Italy)

At Christmas, bagpipers and flute players in Rome and its surrounding areas don traditional colorful costumes of sheepskin vests, knee-high breeches, white stockings and long dark cloaks. They travel from their homes in the Abruzzi mountains to entertain crowds of people at religious shrines. The Urn of Fate is an old tradition which calls for each member of the family to take turns drawing a wrapped gift out of a large ornamental bowl until all the presents are distributed. Cotoletta means breaded veal in the style of Milan. AFTER LIGHTLY BREADING HIS POUNDED VEAL CHEF SERVES IT THE TRADITIONAL WAY, LIGHTLY FRIED AND SERVED WITH A LEMON BURRE BLANC AND CHOPPED FRESH PARSLEY, ACCOMPANIED WITH ROSEMARY ROASTED POTATO AND VEGETABLE.
\$24

Grilled New York Strip, Green Peppercorn Sauce & Twice Baked Potato (New York)

On Christmas Eve 1931, during the height of the Great Depression, workers at the Rockefeller Center construction site pooled their money to buy a 20' tree that they decorated with strings of cranberries, garlands of paper and even a few tin cans. The men lined up at the tree to receive their paychecks. In 1933, Rockefeller Center decided to make the tree an annual tradition and held the first official lighting ceremony with a 50' tree. In 1936, they put up 2 trees to mark the opening of the skating rink. Since 1997, the lighting is done by NY's current mayor and has been broadcast live. An estimated 125 million people visit each year. This year's tree is 94' high and after will be milled with the wood being donated to Habitat for Humanity.
\$29