



NEW YEAR, NEW WAYS



Take advantage of the year's end to broaden your horizons and welcome in 2018 with a touch of adventure

Traditions are an important part of welcoming in the new year. They allow us to honor our ancestors, express gratitude, and spread joy. Cultures throughout the world celebrate the end of the year with rituals of closure and embrace new beginnings with festivities. They share food and drink with love and intent and celebrate at the stroke of midnight. Some use elements like water or fire to let the past go, others make wish lists for the future. Here are some ideas to feed your wanderlust.

OMISOKA IN JAPAN

Japanese New Year's is a serious event. Their most important holiday begins on the last few days of the old year and lasts

until the first few days of the new year. First, they prepare the house with a big family cleaning to get rid of the old and make room for the new, and start the cooking for Osechi—a beautifully packed and shared buffet eaten the first few days of the new year that includes symbolic foods like prawns for long life, lotus root for a happy future without obstacles ahead, and the auspicious Mochi rice cakes. On New Year's Eve, they eat hand-made soba—the noodles' long and thin form represents long life and health—wrap small quantities of money in envelopes and give it to children, visit a temple and dwell on the sounds of the ringing bells. Buddhist temple bells strike 108 times, each time to remove one earthly

type of desire. Shopping is also part of the equation. The first day of the new year, department stores create “lucky bags” filled with leftover goods from the previous year and sold at half price.

RÉVEILLON IN BRAZIL

Nobody parties like Brazilians, so if you are looking for a place to count your blessings with joy and beauty, head to the Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro for an over-the-top celebration. On New Year's Day, Brazilians make sure they eat lentils and rice to guarantee good fortune and blessings. On New Year's Eve, wearing all white is a must for year-round good luck. To honor Yemanjá, better known as the Yoruba Goddess of the Sea and Mother

of the Waters, at midnight people throw small boats full of offerings like candles, jewelry, flowers, and rice into the ocean and then wade in and jump over seven waves for abundance and prosperity. Say hello to the new you while dancing samba, forró and Brazilian funk for days on end.

NOCHEVIEJA IN SPAIN

Celebrations in Spain are a feast for the senses. The meal is an essential piece of the festivities and every region has their emblematic dishes. Madrileños create a spread that includes baked suckling pig, baked bream with pine nuts, roasted lamb, and prawns. There's also plenty of Rioja wine and lemon sorbet. After the meal everyone waits for midnight, usually at home with family or in a plaza where you can hear the clock bell strike 12. La Puerta del Sol in Madrid is the most famous one—its New Year's Eve celebration plays live on national TV. With a glass of Cava in hand, during the first minute of the new year, Spaniards eat one grape for every stroke of the clock, while hugging, kissing, and cheering everyone around them. If you are able to eat all 12 grapes, your new year will be filled with luck and blessings; if not, bad luck awaits you. They also wear red underwear that cannot be bought, but has to be gifted by somebody else, for luck and prosperity.

AÑO NUEVO IN PUERTO RICO

New Year's in Puerto Rico is all about cleansing and purifying. During the day, Puerto Ricans clean their homes and wash the cars and make sure that everything around them is tidy. In some areas, they also clean the streets and decorate them with gold and silver ribbons, lights, and balloons. They believe that whatever conditions the end of the year finds them in mark the year ahead. So, New Year's Eve is not only met with a clean environment—people wear glamorous outfits to pave the way for a beautiful and prosperous new year. At midnight, they throw buckets of water out of their windows to release anything unpleasant left from the last year and remove any evil air from their homes. They also eat the 12 grapes and in some places a wish is made for each of them. Lighting colored candles and letting them burn completely is also very popular. The different colors signify your wishes: yellow is for prosperity, red is for love, green is for health, white is for spirituality, and orange is for wisdom. Given the current situation in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands after hurricane Maria's devastation, we suggest you keep them in mind while sending blessings. Here's to a happy and prosperous new year, and a new you. ■

—ANGELA LANG



READY TO CROSS OFF SOME GIFTS FROM YOUR HOLIDAY LIST?

With this group of lovely items we hope to help you make some of your wishes come true in style during this festive season



MARK CROSS PASSPORT COVER

Make a statement at the airport and welcome the New Year like a movie star with this lovely passport case from the legendary leather goods brand. markcross.com



CANDER PARIS CANDLE

The model and influencer Elizabeth Minnet paired up with perfumer Emmanuel Philip to create “fragrances for candid moments” in the shape of gorgeous candles. shop.canderparis.com



LANARIA TEXTILE JEWELRY

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