

# HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA:

Your Unforgettable Guide



# Season's Greeting

"Welcome to our Holiday Guide, a curated resource crafted with you in mind. As the holiday season approaches, we recognize its global significance and the joy it brings.

This guide is designed to offer you valuable tips and insights, aiming to enhance your holiday experience and alleviate some of the seasonal stress.

We hope you find it both enjoyable and helpful as you embark on your festive journey."

Scott & Jana



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FELICES FIESTAS  
JOYEUSES FÊTES FIJNE FEESTDAGEN  
FROHE FEIERTAGE MALIGAYANG MGA  
HEZKÉ SVÁTKY החמשל מידעום  
BÒN FÈT *Happy Holidays* BOAS FESTAS  
TREVLIG HELG RÕÕMSAID PÜHI HYVÄÄ LOMAA  
GLEÐILEGA HÁTÍÐ SRETNÍ PRAZNICI

CHEERS TO A FESTIVE SEASON 2025  
AND BEST WISHES FOR A JOYOUS NEW YEAR

# FAQ's For Holiday Wine Gifting

*Let's answer these  
yearly questions!*

"Kindness is like snow. It beautifies  
everything it covers." –Kahlil Gibran

## What is the average price range for holiday gifts?

According to Forbes and Wine.com, the average price range for holiday wine gifts could be anywhere from \$20 to \$100 per bottle. The average gift in general is \$50 - \$100 for family members and \$20-\$50 for a friend. Average \$15- \$40 bottle of wine to take to a party.

The important thing is to choose a gift that you think the recipient will enjoy and appreciate

## What are some good wines to give as gifts?

Choose wines that are versatile, festive and high quality. For instance, sparkling wines like Champagne, Prosecco, Cava, for celebrating. Red wines like Cabernet Sauvignon, Zinfandel and Pinot Noir for pairing with hearty dishes; white wines like Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Riesling for refreshing the palate; or dessert wines like Ports and Ice Wine for indulging in sweets.

## Personal touches to wine gifts

You can include a handwritten card or wrap your bottle in a festive bag or paper. Adding a wine accessory is a nice touch like a corkscrew or wineglass. If you're shipping your gift, most wineries are happy to do this for you.

## More HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING FAQ'S

**What is the best wine to serve with ham or turkey?**

Rieslings and Rosés. They will accentuate both.



**Should I serve white or red wine with the holiday dinner?**

Both and you should include a rose. There is such a mixture of flavors on the table that you need several wines to take you from start to finish.



**What is a safe wine to bring to someone's house when you're not sure of their taste or what they are serving?**



Barbera. It's a wine that goes with everything on the table.



**What are some good dessert wine options for holiday sweets?**

Ports, Sauternes, Ice Wine or Sparkling wine all pair well.

**How do I calculate how many drinks I'll need for my party?**

- Two drinks for every guest in the first hour
- One drink for every guest every hour after that
- One bottle per guest for a lively four hour party.
- You can use this formula for non-wine drinkers, too, for beer, soda or cocktails.
- Of course you know your crowd and, should recalculate accordingly.

**THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO ENJOY THE WINE AND FOOD AND COMPANY OF YOUR LOVED ONES.**

# 3 Easy 3 Ingredient

# HOLIDAY APPETIZERS

Elevate the dining experience to new heights with these delightful and easy appetizers.

## Baked Goat Cheese Bites



### Baked Goat Cheese Bites

To prep this easy holiday appetizer, remove the phyllo cups from the package and place on a baking sheet.

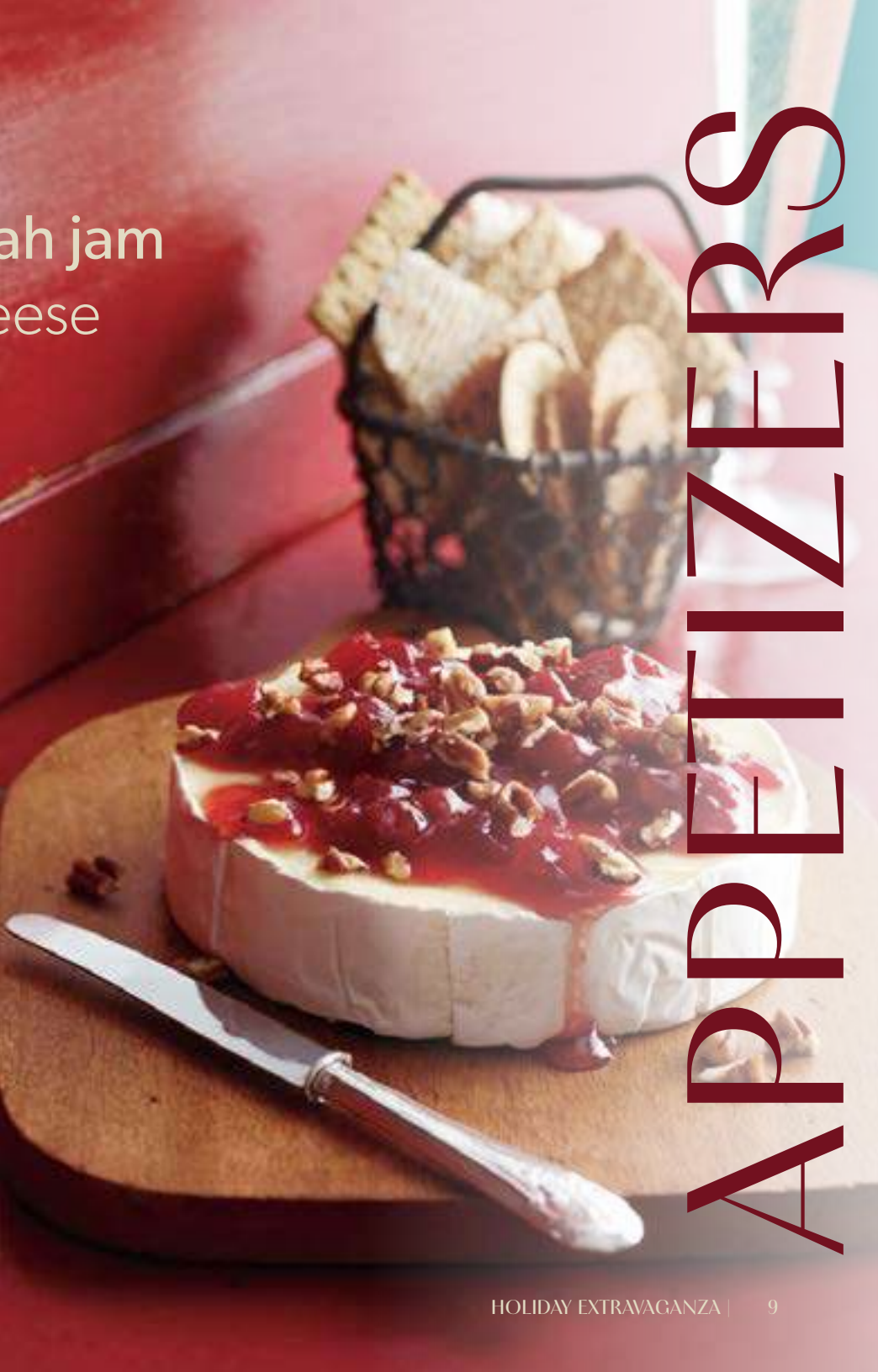
Scoop one teaspoon of goat cheese in each cup and bake at 350 degrees for 3-5 minutes.

This crisps up the phyllo for an incredible crunch and allows the goat cheese to soften just a bit.

Once out of the oven, top with a few pomegranate seeds, a drizzle of honey and a fresh sprig of thyme.

## Spiced Zinfandel or Syrah jam over a cube of cream cheese

For a delightful addition to your holiday menu, consider incorporating a jar of blackberry spicy zinfandel jam as a versatile condiment. Drizzle the jam over a bed of cream cheese or a goat cheese log, creating a mouth-watering flavor pairing. Accompany this delectable spread with a selection of artisan crackers for an effortless yet exceptionally delicious appetizer.



# APPETIZERS

## Prosciutto-Wrapped Asparagus

### Ingredients:

Fresh asparagus spears  
Prosciutto slices  
Olive oil

### Instructions:

- Preheat your oven to 400°F (200°C).
- Trim the tough ends of the asparagus spears.
- Take one prosciutto slice and wrap it around an asparagus spear from bottom to top, leaving the tip exposed.
- Repeat this process for the remaining asparagus spears.
- Place the prosciutto-wrapped asparagus on a baking sheet and drizzle with a little olive oil.
- Bake in the preheated oven for about 10-15 minutes or until the prosciutto is crispy and the asparagus is tender.
- Serve hot or at room temperature



“Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree.  
In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.” – Larry Wilde



## Christmas Eve in Czech Republic

Christmas Eve in Czech Republic is filled with enchanting traditions that blend folklore with festive joy. One of the most iconic customs is the shoe toss, a playful ritual for single women.

By throwing a shoe over their shoulder, they hope to predict their marital future — if the shoe lands pointing toward the door, it's believed they'll marry within the year.



# Unique Holiday Traditions



## AROUND THE WORLD

### Krampusnacht (Austria and other Alpine countries):



On December 5th, the night before St. Nicholas Day, people dress up as Krampus, a horned, demonic figure, and roam the streets scaring children. It's a unique contrast to the more common jolly St. Nicholas.

### Caga Tió, or the “Pooping Log”



In Catalonia, Spain, there is a character called Caga Tió, Tió de Nadal (Christmas Log) or the “Pooping Log”. It is a hollow log with a face and legs that children feed with sweets and nuts until Christmas Eve. Then they hit it with sticks and sing a song to make it poop out presents

### KFC for Christmas Dinner

Ordering Kentucky Fried Chicken for Christmas Dinner is a tradition in Japan. The KFC “Christmas Party Barrels” are so popular that customers need to place their orders weeks in advance.



### Gavlebocken (Sweden):

In Gävle, Sweden, a giant straw goat is erected yearly in the town square at Christmas. The tradition is for locals to try to burn it down, and arson attempts have become an annual occurrence, despite efforts to protect the goat.



### The Yule Lads (Iceland):



Instead of one Santa Claus, Iceland has 13 Yule Lads who visit children in the 13 nights leading up to Christmas. Each Yule Lad has a distinct personality and leaves either gifts or pranks in shoes left on windowsills.

# How to Travel Cheaply Around the Holidays

- Be flexible with your dates and destinations. You can save money by traveling on less popular days, such as weekdays or Christmas Day, or by choosing alternative airports or locations that are less crowded.
- Use websites and apps that compare prices and offer deals. You can find the best fares and discounts by using tools like Skypicker, Fareness, or Hopper, which help you search for flights, hotels, and car rentals across different platforms.



- Plan ahead and book early. The best time to book a flight is 57 days in advance for domestic flights, and 117 days for international flights<sup>1</sup>. You can also save money by booking your accommodation and activities in advance, and by taking advantage of loyalty programs and rewards cards.
- Pack light and smart. Avoid extra fees and hassles by traveling with carry-on luggage only, or by shipping your gifts ahead of time. You can also pack some essentials like snacks, water, sanitizer, masks, and entertainment to make your trip more comfortable and safe.





Wine Based  
—  
HOLIDAY  
COCKTAILS



## Port Wine Flip

A Port Wine Flip combines the rich flavors of port wine with egg yolk, sugar, and nutmeg. It's a decadent, dessert-like cocktail that's perfect for sipping by the fire.



## Poinsettia Cocktail

This sparkling wine cocktail combines Champagne or sparkling wine with cranberry juice and orange liqueur (like Cointreau or Triple Sec). It's both visually stunning and delicious.



## Gingerbread Wine Cocktail

Combine red wine with ginger liqueur and a touch of cinnamon syrup to create a cocktail that tastes like gingerbread cookies in a glass. Garnish with a cinnamon stick or a gingerbread cookie.

# EASY HOLIDAY WINE DECOR

“You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.”

–Maya Angelou

## Cork Garland

### Cork Garland

- 🍷 Thread wine corks onto a string of lights or twine to make a unique garland.
- 🍷 Add colorful ribbon or paint the corks for added flair.

## Cork Mini Tree

### Cork Mini-Tree

- 🍷 Stack wine corks in a triangular shape to create a mini Christmas tree.
- 🍷 Decorate with tiny ornaments and a star on top

## Wine Bottle Candle Centerpiece

"We light candles in testament that faith makes miracles possible." –Nachum Braverman

### Wine Bottle Candle Centerpiece

- Insert tall taper candles into empty wine bottles and place them in the center of your table.
- Surround the bottles with greenery or ornaments for a festive centerpiece.

## Wine Cork Place Cards

### Wine Cork Place Cards

- Attach a small clip to wine corks to hold place cards.
- These can be used to display guests' names on a buffet table or as part of table settings.

"Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."  
–Hamilton Wright Mabie

**Sutter Creek, CA:**

Sutter Creek, CA is a charming town in the heart of the Gold Country that celebrates the holiday season with a lot of magic and fun .

*Sutter Creek  
CA*



**Quebec City, Canada:**

Quebec City's Old Town is transformed into a charming European-style Christmas village during the holiday season, complete with twinkling lights and a German Christmas market.

*Quebec City*



*Tokyo*



**Tokyo, Japan:**

Tokyo's neighborhoods, such as Roppongi Hills and Omotesando, are known for their extravagant Christmas illuminations and festive displays.

**Medellín, Colombia:**

Medellín's Festival of Lights (Feria de las Luces) is a spectacular event where the entire city is adorned with millions of Christmas lights, creating a magical atmosphere.

*Colombia*



**Where to Visit for a  
Magical Holiday  
Experience**



*AUSTRALIA*

**Sydney, Australia:**

While it's summer in Australia during the holiday season, Sydney still goes all out with festive lights, Christmas concerts, and fireworks over the iconic Sydney Harbour.





## The Rakotzbrücke Bridge

The Rakotzbrücke Bridge in Germany. This is a stone bridge that was built in the 19th century and has a perfect circle shape when reflected in the water below. The bridge is located in a park that also has other fairy-tale-like structures and scenery.

# Surreal Escapes from the Hustle and Bustle of the Holidays

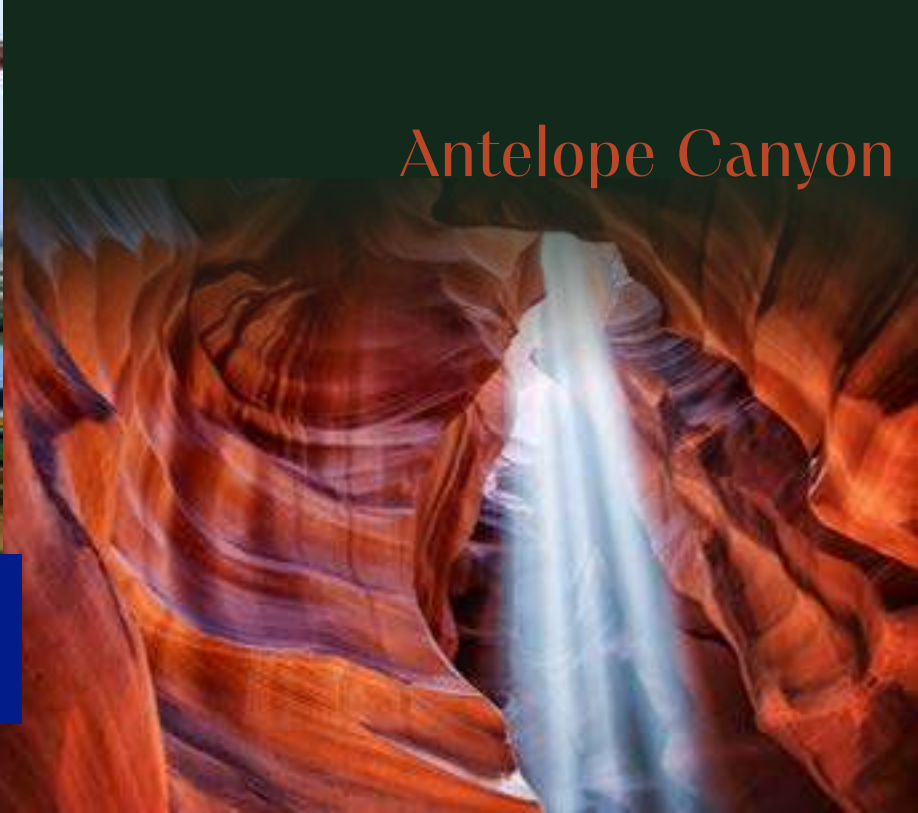


## Dragon's Blood Forrest

The Dragon's Blood Forest in Yemen. This is a remote island where you can find bizarre-looking trees that have red sap and umbrella-shaped crowns. The trees are endemic to the island and are considered sacred by the locals.



Hot air ballooning over the surreal fairy chimneys and unique rock formations in Cappadocia is a dreamlike experience. Visiting during the holidays adds an extra layer of enchantment with festive lights and decorations.



## Antelope Canyon

Antelope Canyon, USA This slot canyon in Arizona is famous for its stunning light beams that filter through the narrow sandstone walls. Visiting during the winter holidays can offer a quieter and more peaceful experience.



## Salar de Uyuni

Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia: The world's largest salt flat becomes a mirror during the rainy season (December to April). This unique natural phenomenon creates an otherworldly landscape where the sky and ground seem to blend together

## Mistletoe Traditions

**In Roman times,** mistletoe represented peace and reconciliation. Enemies would lay down their arms and embrace under the mistletoe.

**In Norse mythology,** mistletoe was the weapon that killed the god Baldur. His mother Frigg, the goddess of love, then declared mistletoe a symbol of love and vowed to kiss anyone who passed under it.

**In medieval England,** mistletoe was hung in houses to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck. A kiss under the mistletoe was also seen as a promise of marriage.

**In ancient Greece,** mistletoe was associated with fertility and the winter festival of Kronia. People may have kissed under it as a way of celebrating life and love.

**In modern times,** kissing under the mistletoe is a popular Christmas tradition that may have originated from the servants in England in the 18th century. It is considered a sign of friendship and goodwill.

*Continue the  
Journey  
@  
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