

# Bringing Back Holiday Traditions from Yesteryear...

BY CHRIS FRANCIN  
VENICE GULF COAST LIVING MAGAZINE

Looking for ways to make this holiday a little extra special? Join us as we turn the pages back in time and remember some of the tried-and-true holiday activities and traditions.

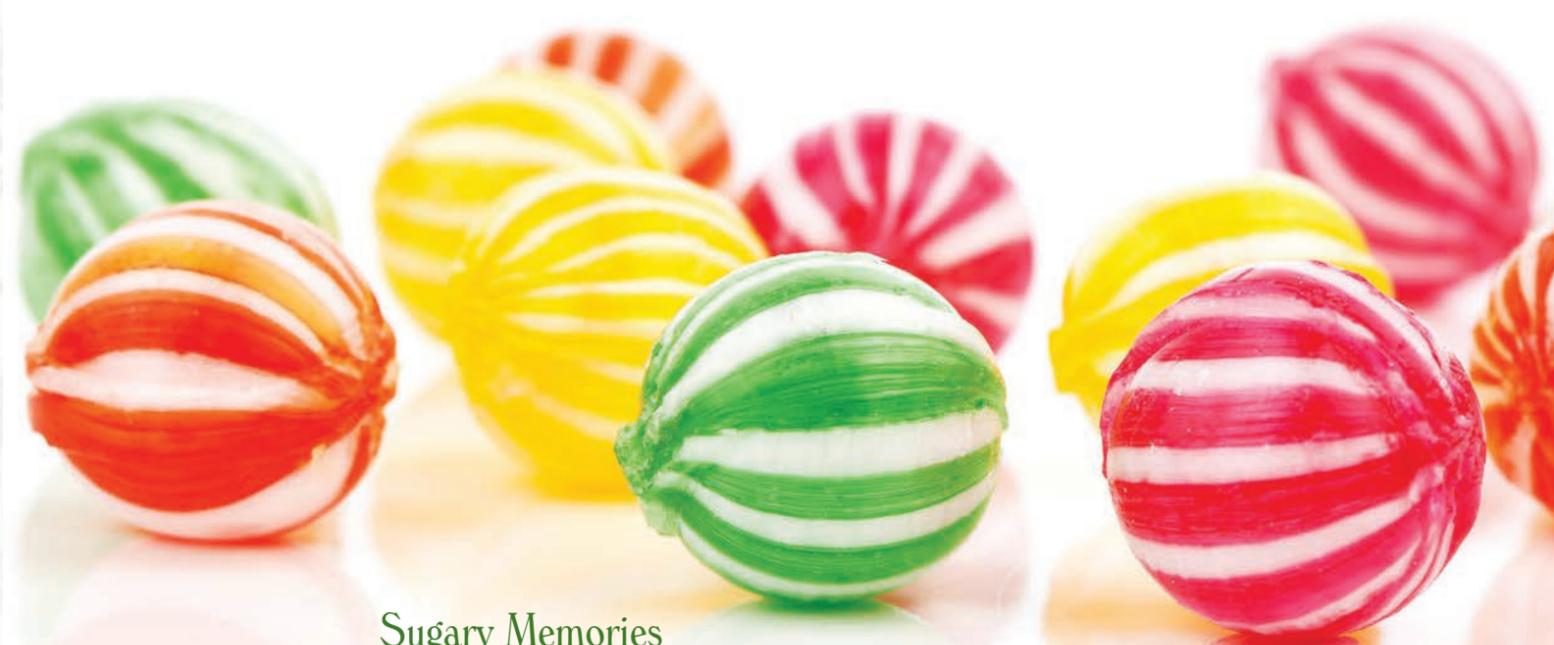


## Festively set!

Special holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas come around only once a year, bringing together family and friends to enjoy special meals. Some traditions can add a memorable touch to the holiday festivities, so it might be fitting to entertain the idea of breaking out the fine china and cherished plates that may have been handed down within the family.

Some plates and platters have an interesting history. A fun fact about the turkey-inspired theme plates is that they have been in circulation since U.S. president Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving as a national holiday in 1863. Many of the plates and platters with the turkey designs are described as transferware because art was transferred from a design on paper to the plate, making it literally art on a plate and sought after by collectors.

When it comes to decorating the table for the holiday season, the one thing to remember is that there are no rules. Decorate the table with mismatched or a coordinated set of dinnerware that fits your style. For ideas on unique coastal style holiday tablescapes, visit our online destination, [VeniceGulfCoastLivingMagazine.com/table-scapes](http://VeniceGulfCoastLivingMagazine.com/table-scapes).



## Sugary Memories

Some traditions can inspire sweet childhood memories. Many of us might remember digging down into our stockings early Christmas morning to find multi-colored hard candy or maybe we recall the pretty glass dish placed on a special table filled to the brim with this holiday indulgence.

Whether you wish to fill holiday stockings or dishes with these treats or to send a box of sweets to a loved one, today, you can still purchase an array of old-fashioned candy and bring back the holidays that you remembered as a child. To take a journey down a sweet memory lane, log on to [VermontCountryStore.com](http://VermontCountryStore.com) and search for hard candy.

Making your own holiday candy could be fun! If you would like some great tips or easy-to-follow instructions for preparing your treats from scratch, log on to [TheSpruceEats.com/broken-glass-candy-4082763](http://TheSpruceEats.com/broken-glass-candy-4082763).

## Baked with Love

The aroma of cookies baking in the oven can bring back wonderful memories of past holiday celebrations. Making cookies and placing them in decorative tins wrapped with beautiful bows is a wonderful way to show your loved ones that they hold a special place in your heart.

The tradition of baking and sharing cookies goes back centuries. As people started to immigrate to America, so did the cookie traditions that were popular in Europe. Modern Christmas cookies can be traced to the recipes from Medieval Europe biscuits with ingredients such as cinnamon, ginger, black pepper, and dried fruit. And, of course, the tradition of leaving some cookies and milk for Santa still remains a popular activity for young children today.

Participating in a cookie exchange is also a fun way to enjoy the holiday festivities. The idea of gathering to exchange cookies is simple: just invite a few friends to your home, asking everyone to bring a dozen or so cookies that they have made to exchange, and everyone goes home with dozens of different delicious Christmas cookies!

Want some coastal-style holiday cookie recipes? Visit our online destination, [VeniceGulfCoastLivingMagazine.com](http://VeniceGulfCoastLivingMagazine.com), select Gulf Coast Cuisine, and then click on Christmas, where you'll find a bounty of baked goods, perfect for your holiday celebrations!





SEASONS

**A Sweet Cottage**

Making a gingerbread house from scratch may seem like a daunting task, but the benefits of simply having fun and enjoying the shared experience with our loved ones make it all worthwhile. When we stir in special seasonal ingredients such as a little holiday music, some festive candy, and maybe a few holiday decorations, you are sure to make this project a fun event for the whole family!

The tradition of making gingerbread houses started in Germany in the 1800s. Their popularity took off after the Brothers Grimm wrote a story about Hansel and Gretel discovering a house in the forest made entirely of candy and treats!

Made in Bryan, Texas, the world's largest gingerbread house, as officially recognized by Guinness World Records, was a 2,520-square-foot, 21-foot-high structure consisting of 35.8 million calories' worth of gingerbread. The recipe consisted of 1,800 pounds of butter, 2,925 pounds of brown sugar, 7,200 eggs, 7,200 pounds of all-purpose flour, and 1,080 ounces of ground ginger, as well as a few other ingredients.

This holiday season, you may want to try building a special cottage of your own. To help you navigate through this jolly tradition, log on to LetsLassoTheMoon.com/gingerbread-house/.

**Old World Mulled Wine**

Sparkling crystal punch bowls filled with mulled wine can bring back memories of past cherished holidays. Served warm, this fragrant wine is perfect for holiday gatherings. Simple to prepare, the timeless drink infused with spices such as cinnamon, vanilla, cloves, and cardamom is delicious while the aroma that fills the air adds that special holiday ambiance to your home.

Dating back to the 2nd century A.D., mulled wine was historically introduced into other cultures by the Romans as they traveled and traded across Europe, sharing their knowledge of wine and viticulture, or wine growing, with the people living in those regions.

This holiday season, bring back yesteryear by serving your guests mulled wine. Prefer a recipe with a few simple steps? Just log on to SweetAndSavoryByShinee.com/easy-mulled-wine/. Want a recipe that's a little more complex? Then you'll appreciate the version from *Wine Enthusiast* found at WineMag.com/2016/12/22/mulling-over-mulled-wine/. Entertaining guests of all ages? You'll find a delightful non-alcoholic version at HappyFoodsTube.com/non-alcoholic-mulled-wine/.

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