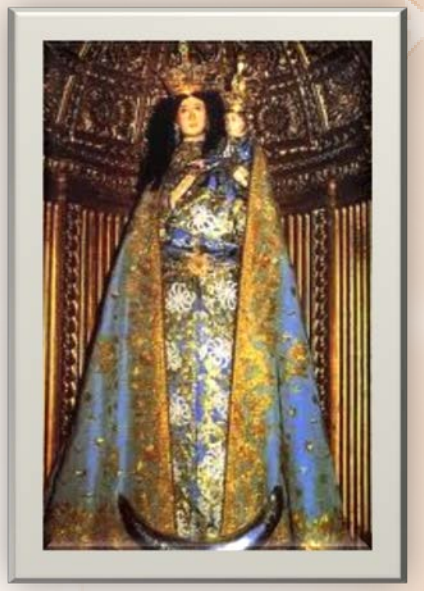
ChristmasCelebrat

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in Madeira

8 th December

The Catholic Church celebrates on December 8 the day of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. It is a festival that is located at the beginning of the liturgical year, Advent, lighting the path of the Church towards Christmas.



Immaculate Conception is one of the important titles with which the Virgin Mary is venerated.

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854, with the bull Ineffabilis God, the result of popular devotion coupled with papal interventions and endless theological debates.

In 700 this celebration has existed in the east. In 1570, Pope Pius V issued the new Office and in 1708 Clement XI extended the feast, which is mandatory to all Christians.

In Portugal, the service was officiated by D. John IV, son of D. Theodosius and D. Ana Velasco, the first king of the dynasty of Braganza.

Usually on the December 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception, or, on December 18, (Day of Our Lady of O or Birth), people kill the pigs, resulting in an interaction between family members, neighbors and friends. With his flesh, blood and offal, dishes are done and "teeth" (appetizers), typical of this era, such as blood stew, stew, beef and wine and garlic, skewered heart and liver, bofe, "inwards ", beef liver, sausage, soup" tanarifa "(made from the intestines, and watercress or Moganga), among others.



At this time also tends to bake bread. In the past, who had no oven, boiled in houses that have, or a bakery, one more reason for living. Besides the bread, the "Brindeiro“ is also made.

The day of the killing of the pig, expected throughout the year, is, from time immemorial, the feast day par excellence, a day with plenty of wine and food, dancing, singing and Despique. It is at this time of year especially it prepares the most delicious local sweets, the honey-cake. This cake was very rich and made with a variety of ingredients such as sugar cane honey and various spices from India, seems to have th century origins, since it is from this century that the first oriental spices, accessible to the population of Madeira, began to reach the archipelago.



16th December



In Madeira, the festivities of Christmas begin on December 16 with the Birth-giving Masses. These masses represent the journey of Our Lady to give birth. It is like a preparation for the big day of the birth of Jesus - Advent. They are celebrated at dawn (at 5:30, 6:30 or 6 am) and end on June 24.

The bells begin to ring before the Mass, calling the faithful. It is also usual, rockets and dropped bombs.

At the end of the celebration there will be a living, which extends out later with food, drinks, music, sale of raffle and an auction. The money obtained is reversed to the church.

The Christmas season is a period in which godparents and godchildren, friends and relatives, exchange gifts and visit each other, to socialize, enjoy the crib, eat honey cake, scones, cakes and snacks, drink wine and liqueurs

The room is whitewashed, the interior clean and tidy and all the clothes are changed and there is a certain ritual purification. It is also customary to everyone looking for new clothes to wear.

23rd and 24th December

- During Christmas Eve, the populations often socialize in the market and in the surrounding streets, buying fruit, vegetables or simply taking a cup, eating meat sandwiches. The town is decorated with colored illuminations and Christmas themed items. In Madeira, our beautiful Lapinha is the queen of Christmas, and it's built a few days before. It's done in steps of Three's feet or more, covered with a white cloth and decorated with searinhas (green plants of rye, lentils, corn and wheat), Cabrinhas or fetuses, Brindeiro (small breads), season fruits: apples, oranges, english tomatoes, mandarins, and traditional small bulbs of oil. At dinner time, families gather around the table, richly garnished with traditional dishes such as Sugar cane honey cakes, fryed meat with garlic and wine, roasted turkey, honey short cakes (Broinhas) and Canja (a soup made of small pieces of pasta and pieces of chicken breast. In every home, there's a Christmas tree, a Crib and family celebrating the birth of Baby Jesus.People go to the Roosters Mass at midnight and in the end they return home to eat Canja.






Reguinle





The Market Night – 23rd December

At night people join at the Farmer's Market in Funchal and celebrate the holidays.



Traditional Crib



Another traditional Crib "Lapinha"



25th December

In the morning, after opening the presents, we go to church and for lunch on Christmas Day, we eat the meat came from traditional garlic, roast pork and turkey. But there is no party without the Christmas specialty most coveted, honey cake, which dates back to the seventeenth century, made with honey cane sugar and flavored with spices.





28th December

São Silvestre Race - Dec. 28

The São Silvestre Race is a traditional long-distance race around the city of Funchal, which takes place annually on 28 December. The São Silvestre Race is one of the oldest races in Portugal and Europe and is organized by the Athletics Association of the Autonomous Region of Madeira with the participation of thousands of athletes of all ages.





31st December

- Alongside all the great celebrations happening during the month of December is the best of everything to prepare for the New Year.
The New Year is celebrated throughout the island and the most spectacular event is midnight in the city center. When they play the chimes at midnight the sky lights up with a wonderful spectacle of fireworks, almost endless fireworks illuminating the entire island of Madeira.
The grand finale is simply breathtaking and it is definitely an experience that is to see to believe.







This year in

Christmas in our School - Gala~