

El Año Nuevo en México

Mexicans love to gather with close friends and family to wish love and prosperity for the coming year. What makes the culture unique are the rituals and traditions that are performed before and after midnight to welcome the New Year. Since Aztec times, the Mexican culture has been filled with traditions and celebrations, many being religious and others superstitious. These rituals are what make the culture rich and lively.

1. Eating 12 Grapes Before Midnight

Mexicans are busy eating twelve grapes with each chime of the clock's bell. "Las doce uvas de la suerte" are to bring good luck in the new year.



2. Lentils for Good Fortune

Mexicans believe eating a spoonful of cooked lentils brings good fortune for the coming year. Another tradition is to give guests a handful of dry lentils for prosperity.



3. Throwing a Bucket of Water Out the Window

Throwing a bucket of water out the window signifies throwing out the old year and welcoming the new.

4. Out with the Old in with The New

Cleaning the house, taking a bath, mopping the floors with water and cinnamon before midnight are all part of New Year rituals for new beginnings and renewal.

5. Sweeping Coins in the House

When midnight strikes, it's tradition to symbolically sweep the old year out the door and sweep in twelve coins from the outside into the house, representing fortune and prosperity.



6. Colored Underwear

People wear yellow underwear for prosperity and happiness, green for wealth and well-being, red for love and white for hope and peace.

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7. Walking the Suitcase

After midnight, it's a ritual to walk an empty suitcase around the house or block to bring good travels in the coming year. An alternative is to place suitcases in the middle of a room for people to walk around them.

8. Burning Candles for Wealth and Food

A common New Year ritual in Mexico is placing candles on a white plate surrounded by lentils, beans, rice, corn, flour and cinnamon. The candles are left to burnout, the remaining waxy foods are collected and buried to promote good fortune and abundance of food for the coming year.



9. Fireworks

Fireworks are displayed at midnight to frighten evil spirits away and to welcome good luck. Many Mexican like to continue the celebration with a late feast after enjoying the fireworks at midnight.

