

X Centric Ideas

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Christmas Edition

A fresh
twist to
celebrating!

Did you know a bowl of garlic was normally placed under the dining table for strength and protection?

Did you know it was considered unlucky to refuse a mince pudding on Xmas Eve?

Recipes &
photos from
Internet,
magazines &
recipe books

Did you know - originally, finely chopped poultry, pheasant, partridge and rabbit were mixed together to make **The Mince Pie** but later sweet ingredients were added to it such as sugar, apples, raisins and candied oranges and lemons.

With time, traditional **Christmas Pudding** came into being (17th century) - eliminating meat and putting together only the sweet ingredients.



Tweak your Xmas tree...



ROSY

Cut florists' oasis in a cone shape. Soak overnight in water. Place in a pretty pot.

Cut off the stems of roses (or any other flowers) and arrange all over the oasis.

Decorate with a golden "humpty dumpty" angel!



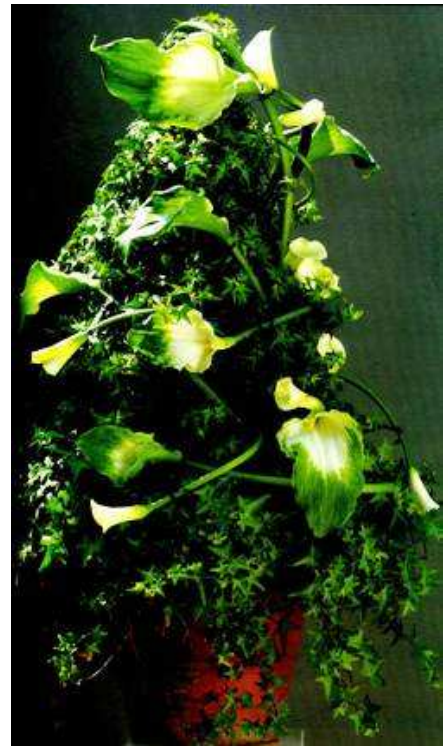
THORNY

Cut a branch from a thorn tree, "plant" it in a bucket with stones and soil.

Decorate with small framed mirrors.

BLING-BLING

Hang your necklaces and earrings from the branches for instant glamour.



LILY

Shape florists' oasis into a cone. Place the soaked oasis in a pot.

Drape ivy branches all over the oasis, covering it all.

Arrange arum lilies, pressing their ends into the oasis, keeping them in place with florists' wire.

Table a la luxure

XMAS CABBAGE

Trim the stems off a few firm, good-sized red cabbages to stand securely. Cut a hole in the top of each one, hollow out slightly and fill with a piece of oasis, saturated with water. Decorate with creamy roses and fern leaves and display on tissue paper and a lovely plate or tray.



CEILING DECO

Tie small twigs together with colourful organza ribbons in different lengths. String beads and crystals onto fishing line and decorate the branches. Suspend the bunch upside-down from the ceiling, using more fishing line and a thumb tack.

KING, QUEEN OR JOKER

Use playing cards as place cards at your party table. Use them as is or have them enlarged on photographic paper - 8 x 11cm, with a 2cm border around. Punch a hole in each card and thread a delicate organza ribbon through. Write each guest's name on each card before tying it to their chair.



A festive treat...



FLOWER YOUR GUEST

Surprise each guest with their own floral place card. Use a long stemmed flower, circle it inside the glass and top with water. Then tie the name with thin ribbon around the glass.

LEMON TWIST

Slice fresh lemons, halve each slice and slide onto a thin kebab.

Each guest can decide when to freshen his/her drink with a piece of lemon.



DOUBLE BAGEL

Tie bagels together in pairs with gorgeous ribbon.

Heap them all together as a bagel-tower or place a pair on each side plate.

Agonizing over gifts for Xmas?

Create something special yourself!

Sterilise jam jars in the Microwave Oven

Quarter fill the jam jar with cold water, put on the lid, shake the water around the jar, remove lid. Microwave 1 minute (high). The water will be boiled and the jar sterilised. **Take care the jar will be hot**, pour out the water - use for jams, sauces, etc.

HOMEMADE CHEESE SPREAD

4 cups milk
1 kg cheddar cheese

500 g margarine
salt and pepper to taste

Cook everything together and stir well.

(Optional): Mix in small amount of finely grated biltong.
Bottle warm, let it cool off and keep in fridge.



ENERGY SNACK MIX

150g pitted raisins
100g unblanched almonds
1 x 68g box chocolates, eg Smarties
100g cashew nuts

150g sultanas
100g dry apricots
100g macadamia nuts

Mix everything together and bottle. Decorate the lid and you have a gift.

EASY CHOC-DIPPED COOKIES

2-3 packets shortbread / ginger / choc chip cookies
slabs of brown /white chocolate

Melt the chocolate on the stove. Dip cookies halfway into chocolate and leave on wire rack to harden **OR** use a spoon and dribble a chocolate pattern over the cookies. Make sure to keep in cool place.



A gift from the heart...

HOMEMADE MUESLI

450g oats	125 ml wheat germ (semels)
100g peanuts	150ml golden syrup / honey
625 ml bran flakes	¼ cup sunflower seeds
150 ml sunflower oil	250g chopped dried fruit & raisins

In a large bowl, mix together oats, bran flakes, wheat germ, sunflower seeds, nuts, oil and syrup/honey. Toss to coat well with oil and honey. Spoon in single layer on baking sheet and bake at 160oC for ± 30 min, tossing once to ensure that mixture turns golden. Out of the oven and once cooled, add fruit. Enjoy to the full with Bulgarian Yoghurt.



DIVINE TRUFFLES

500g chocolate
125ml cream
2-4 tbsp liqueur of your choice

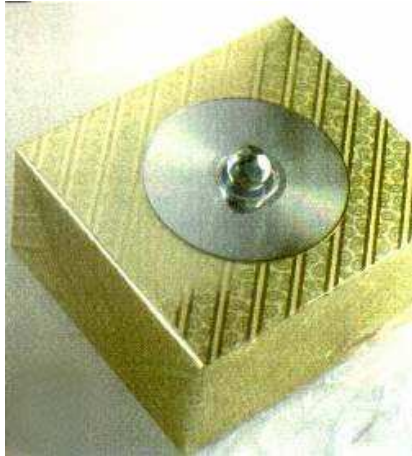
Melt chocolate in double boiler or microwave. Heat the cream in a saucepan. When cream begins to boil, remove from heat. Add boiled cream to chocolate. Add liqueur. Stir till smooth & thick. Mix thoroughly. Refrigerate till cool and chocolate starts to firm - ± 30min.

TO DECORATE: Roll chocolate into balls. Coat with a ½- ½ mixture of icing sugar & cocoa **OR** roll in coconut, vermicelli, Milo, Nesquik chocolate.

MARASCHINO CHERRIES – Roll a chocolate ball around a cherry.

Innovative Gift Wrapping

Ordinary household items and your imagination!



No ribbon? Glue an old cd on top of the gift with a colourful marble in the centre.



Spray paint a cornflake box. Glue a paper angel on top. Decorate with cotton wool clouds.



Paper bags sprayed gold become glamorous with a porcupine quill and a silhouette leaf.



A silver spray painted ice-cream tub looks festive with some tea lights glued to the lid.



Glam up an old coffee tin with a rosette, name tag and cellophane.



Cover with newspaper classifieds. Decorate with a bauble, red ribbon and beads.

AMBIENCE

Xmas atmosphere!



PETAL BATHROOM

Create a romantic feel in your guest bathroom – fill the bath with cold water and sprinkle rose petals all over.

Switch off the light and only use candles – on the bath edge, the basin, the window sill and shelves.

BUNCHY CANDLES

Create impact by grouping together candles and tying them with a festive velvet ribbon.



SILVER LEAF

Gather interesting leaves. Press them in a book for few days until dry. Spray them silver or gold. Use Prestik or masking tape to attach a piece of silver twine at intervals along the wall or mirror or shelf. Hang leaves from the twine with bulldog clips.

Ho! Ho! Ho!

To a twisty, tweaky Xmas!