



Greek Christmas and New Year's Customs and Traditions

SWEETS

- o Delicious Christmas and New Year's traditional sweets are made by every Greek housewife!



MELOMAKARONA



KOURABIEDES



MPAKLAVAS

HRISTOPSOMO



DIPLES



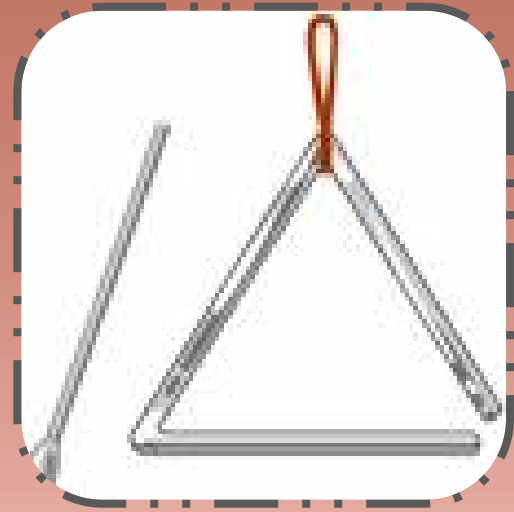
VASSILOPITA

CAROL SINGING

Carol singing is one of the oldest Greek customs. Its roots are found in ancient Greece.

Groups of children or even mature men go around the houses and sing wishes. They hold a metal triangle which is rang by a straight metal stick, producing a pleasant sound.

Sometimes they even hold harmonicas or accordions, whereas in the Greek islands people carry violins and guitars.



CHRISTMAS DECORATION



- Being a primarily naval country, Greece could not exclude blue from the Christmas decoration! In the past, people would decorate a ship, using mainly lights, a very old tradition that is still followed by many Greeks.
- In the recent years, Greek homes have adopted the European custom of the decoration of the Christmas tree!



POMEGRANATE CUSTOM



The pomegranate is the symbol of abundance, fertility and good luck. Around autumn, you can see a pomegranate hanging outside Greek houses.

On January 1st, coming home from church, people throw the pomegranate on the front doorstep so that it breaks in as many pieces as possible, for good luck, and they wish each other 'Happy New Year'!

New Year's Superstition

Many people, even these days, are extremely careful about who is going to be the first person to enter their house on New Year's Day!



Thus, on New Year's Eve they invite a person who is close to them and they consider that s/he brings good luck, to come to their house on New Year's Day, early in the morning.

As soon as s/he enters the house, s/he has to step on an iron object for the family in the house to be as strong as the iron, meaning healthy!

The housewife offers to the person who steps first into her house sweets!

WISHING YOU THE BEST FOR
THE NEW YEAR 2011!!!

