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Nußkuchen

Hazelnut Cake



Zutaten:

250g gemahlene Haselnüsse
250g Gries
250g Zucker
1 Päckchen Vanillezucker
1 Essl. Mehl
1 Päckchen Backpulver
0.5L Milch

Vermische gemahlene Haselnüsse mit Gries und siebe Mehl mit Backpulver. Dann alle trockene Zutaten mischen und langsam Milch dazu geben.

Der Teig sollte flüssig sein und einfach in eine Backform laufen. Die Form für diesen Kuchen ist egal. Sollten Sie eine Gugelhupf-form benutzen, dann mit Butter austreichen und mit Mehl ausstäuben.

Bei 180°C im vorgeheizten Ofen für 25 min backen.

Mit Holzstäbchen testen, wenn der Teig nicht mehr kleben bleibt, dann ist der Kuchen fertig.

Kuchen auskühlen lassen und mit Puderzucker bestäuben oder mit Schokolade glazieren.

Ingredients:

50g ground hazelnut
250g cream of wheat
250g sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tbsp. flour
1 tbsp. baking powder
0.5L milk

Combine the hazelnut and cream of wheat, sift the flour and baking powder. Add all dry ingredients together and while mixing add slowly milk. The dough should be runny and easy to pour into a pan. Most pans are none stick pans, if you use a Gugelhupf form you should grease it with butter and dust it with flour. As a result, the cake should be easier to remove.

Bake at 180°C for about 25 min.

Check with a tooth pick or kebab stick if the dough is still wet. If so, bake until dry.

Let the cake sit and cool down. Depending on your pan the cake might stick a little, be careful when removing from the pan. To decorate your cake either dust icing sugar over it or glaze it with chocolate or icing.

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Handprint Snowman

You will need:

Construction paper
Poster paint in black, white, brown and any other colours
you like

Instructions:

Paint the palm of your hand white and make a print in the
centre of your paper. This is your snowman's body.

Now paint your palm white and the fingers black (miss out
the thumb) and print just above the first print so the white
palm prints touch. This is your head and hat.

With the side of your finger add a black line between the
finger and palm of the second print. This is your hat brim.

Using the side of your finger again add brown twig arms to
the body.

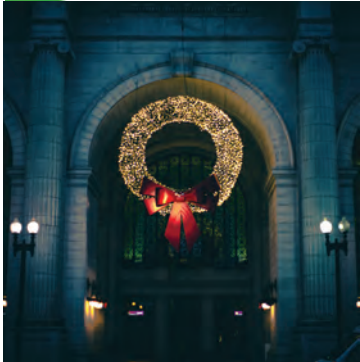
With bright paint and the side of your finger again add a
scarf.

Finally, fingerprint on a nose, eyes and buttons



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O Tannenbaum

Text: Str. 1 Joachim August Zarnack (1819); Str. 2 u. 3 Ernst Anschütz (1824)
Melodie: Volkslied (16. Jh.)

1. O Tan - nen - baum, o Tan - nen - baum, wie grün sind dei - ne
Blät - ter! Du grünst nicht nur zur Som - mer - zeit, nein,
auch im Win - ter, wenn es schneit. Oh Tan - nen - baum, oh
Tan - nen - baum, wie grün sind dei - ne Blät - ter!

2. O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
du kannst mir sehr gefallen!
Wie oft hat schon zur Winterszeit
ein Baum von dir mich hoch erfreut!
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
du kannst mir sehr gefallen!

3. O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
dein Kleid will mich was lehren:
Die Hoffnung und Beständigkeit
gibt Mut und Kraft zu jeder Zeit!
O Tannenbaum, o Tannenbaum,
dein Kleid will mich was lehren!

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Christmas Traditions: Christmas Markets - Weihnachtsmärkte

When the Advent season opens, Christmas markets also crop up in nearly every German town, large or small. The town squares, normally dark early in winter months, are lit up and buzzing with activity during this time. Townspeople gather together, listen to brass band music, drink beer or hot mulled wine (Glühwein) or apple cider, and enjoy the hearty traditional fare of the region. Vendors peddle baked goods, including gingerbread hearts, sugar-roasted almonds, crepes, cookies, stollen, cotton candy and other sweets. Christmas tree decorations, seasonal items, and handcrafted articles, such as wooden toys and hand-blown glass ornaments, are also sold.

Christmas markets date back to at least the 14th century and were one of the many markets held throughout the year. It was here that people bought everything they needed for the Christmas celebration: baking moulds, decorations, candles, and toys for the children. In fact, until well into the 20th century, the Weihnachtsmärkte were the only place for people to buy such seasonal items.

Markets differ from place to place; each has its own regional imprint. The market at Aachen, for instance, is known for its gingerbread men (Aachner Printen). The regions around the Erzgebirge mountain range are famous for their hand-made wooden crafts. Augsburg has a life-sized Advent calendar and opens the holiday season with its famous "Angel Play." At the Frankfurt Christmas Market, visitors will find Quetschenmännchen (little prune men) and Brenten (almond cookies).

The most famous Christmas market is the Nürnberger Christkindlesmarkt, which is known for its gold foil angels and locally produced gingerbread cakes. At least 375 years old, it is one of the oldest, and with over 200 vendors participating each year, it is also one of the largest Weihnachtsmärkte in Germany.

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New and Old Austrian Traditions

The Nights of Smoke and The Light of Peace

The first of three “Rauchnächte” (Nights of Smoke) is Christmas Eve, December 24 (the second and third one are New Year’s Eve and the night before Epiphany, January 05). These nights play an important role in Tirolean folk customs. Incense and blessed catkins and herbs are burnt in homes and stables to avert bad fortune. Everything that happens in these nights is considered of great significance. A new tradition, initiated by Austrian Broadcasting Company ORF in 1986, is the distribution of the “Light of Peace from Bethlehem” throughout Austria on December 24.

Taken from: <https://www.blog.tirol/en/2016/12/christmas-in-tirol/>

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The Arrival of Samichlaus and Schmutzli

If you find yourself travelling in Switzerland at Christmas time you may wonder where Santa is. Did he skip the Alps this year? Of course not. Santa comes to Switzerland like clockwork. Every year. It's just that he arrives on December 6th, for "Samichlaus Abend"—Santa Night. "Samichlaus," as he is known in Switzerland, wears a hooded red cape and long robe so he looks like an elderly version of Little Red Riding Hood. His arrival marks the beginning of the Christmas season. And it's easy for him to make his entrance into town. Samichlaus comes from a nearby forest rather than the North Pole. Children quickly gather as he arrives alongside a donkey. No flying reindeer for this Santa. A benevolent gift-giver, he brings a bag of treats for the children.

But Samichlaus doesn't come alone. When he strides into town right before December 6, he brings a mysterious sidekick, "Schmutzli" ("little dirty one"), whose face is hidden beneath a dark and heavy hooded cape. He is in charge of "punishing" disobedient children by swatting them with a broom made of twigs. But everyone recognizes it's all in fun. Schmutzli remains silent and mysterious as he travels with Samichlaus. They often journey with a donkey or handcart to carry their treats. Samichlaus interviews the children on their behavior in the past year and tries to get a commitment for improvement for the year ahead. Then the traditional treats of lebkuchen, chocolates, peanuts and mandarins are delivered by the iconic pair. And one more tasty treat is included—a little bread man or grittibänz—an absolutely essential part of the tradition.

Taken from: <https://www.alpenwild.com/staticpage/swiss-christmas-traditions/>

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Christmas Fact:

In 1914 during World War I there was a now famous Christmas truce in the trenches between the British and the Germans. They exchanged gifts across a neutral no man's land, played football together, and decorated their shelters. (Read more about it in the book "Silent Night: The Story of the World War I Christmas Truce" by Stanley Weintraub.)

Taken from: <http://thefactfile.org/interesting-facts-christmas/>

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Supplies

- Pinecones
- Green spray paint (like this from Amazon)
- Old wine corks
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun and glue
- Miniature wooden stars (like these from Amazon)

Directions

Spray paint the outer edges of the pinecone with green spray paint. Make it look like a real tree by leaving the inside brown. Let the paint dry.

Cut a wine cork in half and hot glue it to the bottom of the pinecone. Let the glue dry.

Hot glue the star to the top. Let it dry. Then enjoy!



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Alle Jahre wieder

Al - le Jah - re wie - der kommt das Chris - tus - kind
Kehrt mit sei - nem Se - gen ein in je - des Haus,
Ist auch mir zur Sei - te, still und un - er - kannt,

Al - le Jah - re wie - der kommt das Chris - tus - kind
Kehrt mit sei - nem Se - gen ein in je - des Haus,
Ist auch mir zur Sei - te, still und un - er - kannt,

Al - le Jah - re wie - der kommt das Chris - tus - kind
Kehrt mit sei - nem Se - gen ein in je - des Haus,
Ist auch mir zur Sei - te, still und un - er - kannt,



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Vanillekipferl



Ingredients

2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup butter, at room temperature
4 ounces (about 1 cup) ground hazelnuts
1 package (1 1/2 teaspoons) vanilla sugar
3/4 cup powdered sugar
small pinch of salt

For Dusting:

1/2 cup powdered sugar
1 packet (1 1/2 teaspoons) vanilla sugar

Instructions

Place all of the ingredients in a large bowl and knead until thoroughly combined. The dough will be fairly dry and flaky. Shape the dough into a log and wrap with plastic wrap. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 20 minutes. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Cut off small pieces of the dough and shape them into crescents. Place the crescents onto a non-stick or parchment-lined cookie sheet. Bake on the middle rack for 12-15 minutes (depending on the size of the crescents) or until the edges begin to turn golden. Combine the powdered sugar and vanilla sugar. Let the cookies sit for one minute and then use a sifter to dust them with the vanilla-powdered sugar while they're still hot. Let the cookies cool completely and then give them a second dusting. Stored in an airtight container in a cool place, these cookies will keep for several weeks.

Recipe from: Kochlöffel and Nudelholz German-Canadian Koch- und Backstudio

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Christmas Tradition:

Christmas pyramids (German: Weihnachtspyramide) are Christmas decorations that have their roots in the folklore and customs of the Ore Mountain region of Germany.

Christmas pyramids were originally hung from the ceiling of German families' houses. The custom spread across Europe, mainly to Italy and England and was brought to America by German immigrants in the 1700s.

The origins of the Christmas pyramids date back to the Middle Ages. In this period it was traditional in southern and western Europe to bring evergreen branches, for example boxwood, into the home and hang them in order to ward off moroseness in the dark and cold winter months. In northern and eastern Europe traditional candles were used to achieve this goal. The Christmas pyramid would eventually unify these two traditions and become a symbol of Christmas celebrations. The forerunner of the pyramid was a construction known as a Lichtergestelle (literally: light stand) which were very popular in the 18th century. They were constructions made of four poles, decorated with evergreen boughs, tied together at the top and lit with candles.

Taken from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_pyramid

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Basel Christmas Market



The Basel Christmas market at Barfüsserplatz and Münsterplatz is considered to be one of the prettiest and largest in Switzerland. During the run-up to Christmas, many events and spectacular special exhibitions in the city's museums further enrich its cultural scene.

The quaint Christmas market can be found right in the centre of the city and at the heart of the festively decorated Old Town. A magnificent Christmas tree stands on the Münsterplatz, with ornaments by the well-known decorator Johann Wanner. On Claraplatz, the "Sennenhütte" opens its doors again to guests for a fun fondue dinner.

Over 180 traders and artisans offer their goods for sale in small, rustic wooden chalets. Anyone still looking for gift ideas can seek inspiration in the wide selection and enchanting ambience. Culinary delights also abound with waffles, glühwein, genuine Basel Lächerli (a kind of gingerbread), delicious Swiss raclette or the popular grilled sausages.

Taken from: <https://www.basel.com/en/Christmas-in-Basel/Christmas-Market>



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Weihnachten

Joseph Freiherr von Eichendorff (1788–1857)

Markt und Straßen stehn verlassen,
Still erleuchtet jedes Haus,
Sinnend geh' ich durch die Gassen,
Alles sieht so festlich aus.

The market and streets stand still and ghostly,
Each house in all the silence glows,
Along the lanes my thoughts come with me,
As the festive spirit ever grows.

An den Fenstern haben Frauen
Buntes Spielzeug fromm geschmückt,
Tausend Kindlein stehn und schauen,
Sind so wunderstill beglückt.

In every window a housewife places
A toy with colours of faith a-gleam
A thousand children's enchanted faces
Silently wonder their happy dream.

Und ich wandre aus den Mauern
Bis hinaus ins freie Feld,
Hehres Glänzen, heil'ges Schauern!
Wie so weit und still die Welt!

Now away I wander beyond the wall
Out to where the fields are free,
To towering beauty, to holy awe,
To the grand and silent world I see!

Sterne hoch die Kreise schlingen,
Aus des Schnees Einsamkeit
Steigt's wie wunderbares Singen –
O du gnadenreiche Zeit!

The stars weave round and all the spheres
And in that solitude of snow
Are songs such as an angel hears –
And oh, the time of grace I know.

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Leise rieselt der Schnee

Text: Eduard Ebel (1895)

Melodie: Eduard Ebel (um 1900)

F C F B \flat F

1. Lei - se rie - selt der Schnee, still und starr liegt der See, —

C C⁷ Dm Gm C F

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weih - nacht - lich glän - zet der Wald: — Freu - e dich, Christ - kind kommt bald. —

2. In den Herzen ist's warm,
still schweigt Kummer und Harm,
Sorge des Lebens verhallt:
Freue dich, Christkind kommt bald!

3. Bald ist heilige Nacht;
Chor der Engel erwacht;
Horch nur, wie lieblich es schallt:
Freue dich, Christkind kommt bald!

Gesetzt von Peter Crighton ©

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Christmas in Graz, Austria



The oldest Christmas market in Graz is to be found around the Franciscan church. Styrian handicrafts, farm-produced specialities, Punsch and Glühwein provide heart-warming cheer here at the Old Town Traditional Christmas Market. At the entrance to the church a nativity scene complete with real sheep, a carousel and toys makes children's eyes light up.

Taken from: <https://www.graztourismus.at/advent/en/christmas-markets/franziskanerviertel>

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Swiss Christmas Traditions

There are many local traditions of parades and carol singing in Switzerland.

In the Bernese Oberland region, there are processions starting on Christmas Day and finishing on New Year's Eve. They're known as the 'Trychle' as people parade wearing a big Trychler (cow bell) or carrying drums and normally wearing masks. They walk through the streets making lots of noise and are meant to scare the evil spirits away!

The 'Urnäsch Silvesterkläuse' processions take place in the Appenzell Ausserrhoden, especially in the villages around Urnäsch. They take place from December 31st to January 13th and date back over 200 years. The people (known as Kläuse in the processions) wear costumes, masks and head dresses. They go from house to house singing and making lots of noise to wish people a good new year.

Taken from: <https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/switzerland.shtml>



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Der Stern

Wilhelm Busch (1832–1908)

Hätt` einer auch fast mehr Verstand
als wie die drei Weisen aus dem Morgenland
und ließe sich dünken, er wäre wohl nie
dem Sternlein nachgereist, wie sie;
dennoch, wenn nun das Weihnachtsfest
seine Lichtlein wonniglich scheinen läßt,
fällt auch auf sein verständig Gesicht,
er mag es merken oder nicht,
ein freundlicher Strahl
des Wundersternes von dazumal.

If someone had almost more understanding
than the three Wise Men from the Orient
And actually thought that he would never have
followed the star like them,
Nevertheless when the Christmas Spirit
Lets its light blissfully shine,
Thus illuminating his intelligent face,
He may notice it or not -
A friendly beam
From the miracle star of long ago.

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Christmas Fact:

"Silent night," originally composed in German as "Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht," is the most beloved Christmas song in Germany, say pollsters at the Emnid Institute. It's followed by "O du Fröhliche" and "O Tannenbaum." "Silent Night" was performed the very first time in a small chapel in Salzburg on Christmas Eve 1818. The carol has meanwhile been translated into more than 200 languages.

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Glühwein/ Mulled Wine



Glühwein ist ein Traditionsgetränk im Winter in Deutschland, besonders während der Weihnachtszeit. Auf deutschen Weihnachtsmärkten finden Sie eine Vielzahl an Gelühweinständen. Normalerweise wird Glühwein aus Rotwein gemacht, heute gibt es aber auch weißen Glühwein oder Glühwein mit Schuß. (Zum Beispiel Himbeerglühwein.)



Traditioneller Glühwein:

1 Flasche Rotwein, trocken oder süß, je nach Geschmack
4-5 Essl. Zucker
1 Zimtstangem zerbrochen
10-15 ganze Nelken
Gewaschene Zitronenschale geschält in einer Spirale



Alle Zutaten zusammen erwärmen und 5 min köcheln lassen. Nicht kochen! Durch ein Sieb gießen und servieren. Die Zitronenschale aus dem Topf nehmen.

Mulled wine is one of the traditional drinks during Winter and especially Christmas time. If you visit a German Christmas Market you will notice the high count of Mulled wine booths. Usually made from red wine, today you will also find white mulled wine, or mulled wine with a dash of different flavoured liqueur. (For example, raspberry mulled wine.)

For a traditional mulled wine:

1 bottle red wine (either dry or sweet, depending on your likes)
4-5 tbsp. sugar
1 cinnamon stick, broken
10-15 whole cloves, or to taste
Washed rind of 1 lemon, cut in a continuous spiral strip

Heat all ingredients in a heavy-bottomed pan. Simmer for about 5 min before serving. Do not boil! Strain and pour into glasses. Remove lemon rind from bowl.

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Paper Plate Christmas Tree Craft



Materials:
paper plate
red paint
green thread
cardstock paper: yellow and brown
glue

Tools:
paint brush
scissors
pencil
hole punch
plastic yarn needle



Instructions:

Step 1: Start by painting your paper plate red. Let it dry completely.

Step 2: Use a pencil to draw a big triangle in the middle of the paper plate and then cut it out.

Step 3: Make holes along the three sides of the triangle. Cut a big strand of yarn, thread it through the plastic yarn needle and tie one end to the needle. Secure the other end of the yarn at the back of the paper plate with tape. You can now start threading the green yarn through the holes in the paper plate. Continue until you reach the end of your yarn. If you haven't threaded through all the holes, you can cut another strand of yarn and do the same as with the first one. (Tie one end to the needle and secure the other hand to the paper plate).

Step 4: Cut the tree trunk from brown cardstock paper and glue it to the bottom of the tree. Add a yellow cardstock paper star to the top of your Christmas tree.

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Linzer Torte

Ingredients:

300g flour

1 tsp. baking powder

1 tbsp. cocoa (heaped)

1 tsp. cinnamon

¼ tsp. ground cloves

250g sugar

250g butter

250g finely grated almonds

2 eggs

1 tbsp. Kirschwasser (cherry liquor) or rum

250ml red current jam or raspberry

Egg wash:

1 yolk

1 tbsp. milk

- Beat together

Preparation:

Sift together flour, baking powder, cocoa, cinnamon and cloves. Mix in sugar and make a well in the center. Add finely grated almonds. Place 2 lightly beaten eggs and Kirschwasser or rum in well. Cut cold butter in small pieces and spread over other ingredients. With both hands work everything into a small ball. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 3 hours. Use about 2/3 of dough and roll out to cover bottom of a 28cm spring form. Spread generous layer of jam onto dough. Roll out remaining dough on floured surface ½ cm thick. With 2 cm wide stripes create lattice top, finish with a strip around rim of cake pan. Brush cake top with egg wash.

Bake at 180°C for 45min

Tipp: Linzer Torte is best enjoyed when aged 2-3 weeks. Wrap in plastic and store in a cool place. It will keep up to 6 weeks.

Recipe from Kochlöffel and Nudelholz German-Canadian Koch- und Backstudio

Süßer die Glocken nie klingen

Volksweise

Sü- ßer die Glo- cken nie klin- gen, als zu der Weih- nachts- zeit;
 's ist als ob En- ge- lein sin- gen wie- der von Frie- den und Freud.
 Wie sie ge- sun- gen in se- li- ger Nacht, wie sie ge- sun- gen in se- li- ger Nacht!
 Glo- cken mit hei- li- gem Klang, klingt doch die Er- de ent- lang!

2. O, wenn die Glocken erklingen,
 schnell sie das Christkindlein hört:
 Tut sich vom Himmel dann schwingen
 eilig hernieder zur Erd'.
 |: Segnet den Vater, die Mutter, das Kind, :|
 Glocken mit heiligem Klang,
 Klinget die Erde entlang!

3. Klinget mit lieblichem Schalle
 über die Meere noch weit,
 daß sich erfreuen doch alle
 seliger Weihnachtszeit.
 |: Alle aufjauchzen mit herrlichem Sang! :|
 Glocken mit heiligem Klang,
 Klinget die Erde entlang!



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Christmas Fact:

A Moravian star (German: Herrnhuter Stern) is an illuminated Advent, Christmas, or Epiphany decoration popular in Germany and in places in America and Europe where there are Moravian congregations. The stars take their English name from the Moravian Church, originating in Moravia. In Germany, they are known as Herrnhut stars, named after the Moravian Mother Community in Saxony, Germany, where they were first commercially produced.

Taken from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moravian_star

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The Saskatchewan German Council wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein gesundes neues Jahr wünscht der Saskatchewan German Council!

