

TEST YOUR BRAIN. IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS. TAKE THE ICN CHALLENGE

Answer these questions based on the articles in this issue of 360° for your last chance to win a trip to **New York City!**

1 Who is La Befana? A witch, cat or monkey?

2 What is another name for the Festival of Lights?

3 Name the Sweet Italian Bread featured in 360.

**YOUR
LAST CHANCE
TO WIN!**

GRAND PRIZE:
Feel the Magic of Times Square!

**WIN A THREE-DAY,
TWO-NIGHT TRIP TO
New York City!**

You and a guest will fly to New York City and stay at the W Times Square Hotel. Your entry will be submitted into a final drawing for a grand prize trip to New York City. This drawing will be held in January 2005.

YOUR ENTRY WILL BE SUBMITTED INTO A FINAL DRAWING FOR A GRAND PRIZE TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY. THIS DRAWING WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY 2005.

Winner or guest must be 21 to check into hotel. If not 21, ICN reserves the right to substitute prize.

Contest Rules NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.

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Answers

Question 1: _____

Question 2: _____

Question 3: _____

Cultural Tidbits

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

France: On Christmas Eve, children put their shoes in front of the fireplace. They hope Père Noel (Father Christmas) will fill them with presents. His partner Le Père Fouettard (Father Spanker) rewards bad children with a spanking.

The Netherlands: St. Nicholas is known as Sinterklaas. Dutch children are told that he arrives from Spain on a steamer on his feast day, December 6. The night before, they fill their shoes with hay and sugar for his horse and, in the morning, awake to find them filled with nuts and candy.

Zimbabwe: Fellowship is a big part of Christmas Day. Kisimusi, or Christmas, is celebrated Dec. 25, during the summer. Fathers give gifts to their children and wives, usually consisting of clothes and candy.

Egypt: Bells ring out in the Coptic churches and monasteries in celebration of Christmas on January 7. The churches and Christian areas of various cities are lit up by special lanterns and candles. Sweet biscuits marked with crosses are the delicacy of the day, and many children receive new clothes.

Hong Kong: Christmas cards are significant in Hong Kong around Christmastime. Time and money are spent to ensure that the cards are ornate and beautiful, and reflect the artistic capabilities of the family. Dun Che Lao Ren, or Santa Claus, and his reindeer are a common site.

Romania: It is traditional for children to travel from house to house on Christmas night singing carols and reciting poetry.

A SWEET ITALIAN CHRISTMAS!

Buon Appetito! Bring out the wine and relax with this sweet treat!

The legend goes that panettone originated in the 16th century, when a baker named Antonio fell in love with a princess and baked bread to win her heart. In the 19th century, the bread was embellished with candied red cherries and green citron as a patriotic gesture.

PANETTONE

2 eggs	1/4 c. mixed candied fruits, chopped
1/2 c. sugar	1 t. vanilla extract
1/2 c. (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted & cooled	1 t. lemon extract
1 t. grated lemon peel	3 c. flour
1 t. crushed anise seed	2 t. baking powder
1/4 c. pine nuts or slivered almonds	1/2 t. salt
1/4 c. golden raisins	1 c. milk

Preheat the oven to 325 F. Grease an 8-inch round cake pan, and cut a 3-inch-wide strip of brown paper, parchment, or waxed paper long enough to go all around the rim of the pan. In a large bowl, beat the eggs and sugar until thick and light yellow. Beat in the melted butter, lemon peel, anise seed, nuts, raisins, fruits, and vanilla and lemon extracts. In a small bowl, mix the flour, baking powder and salt and blend into the creamed mixture alternately with the milk. Fold the mixture into the prepared baking pan. Bake for 1 hour and 45 minutes, or until the bread is well browned.

Cool the bread in the pan for 10 minutes, then remove from the pan and place on a rack to finish cooling. To serve, remove the paper and cut the bread into wedges. May be stuffed with ice cream, served with a chocolate sauce or served plain with a sweet wine.



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WINTER ISSUE NO. 7

**HOLIDAYS
AROUND THE WORLD
CHRISTMAS, RAMADAN, DIWALI**



**TAKE A BITE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE.
LAST CHANCE TO WIN A TRIP TO NYC!**

RAMADAN

A FASTING CELEBRATION

Prayer, spiritual reflection and worship are what Ramadan is all about

One of the five Pillars of Islam, Ramadan or the Fast of Ramadan is celebrated the ninth month of the Muslim calendar beginning on the new moon. It is believed that this is the time when the Muslim holy book, the Qur'an, was sent from heaven and revealed to the Prophet Mohammed. This year, from around October 14 (depending on the moon) to November 12 or 13, over one billion Muslims around the world will devote themselves to prayer, contemplation, alms giving, and strict fasting in order to receive forgiveness from God and achieve purity. Muslims are to fast from all smoking, eating, drinking and sexual relations from sunrise to sunset every day for the entire month. In addition, Muslims are encouraged to refrain from arguing and indecent speech and to concentrate on fostering patience, love and other characteristics.

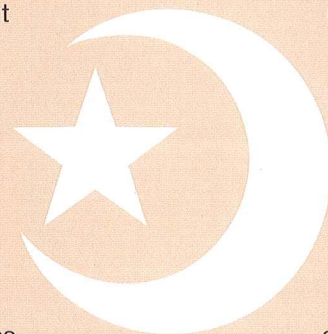
With a daily prayer at nightfall, the fast is broken and families share a meal called iftar. After the meal, it is customary to visit friends and family. People are often

out late, enjoying what they cannot have during the day, and some stay up until the breakfast meal before sunrise. On the 27th of the month, Laylat-al-Qadr, or the Night of Power, is celebrated.

Muslims believe that this is the night the Prophet Mohammed received the revelation. According to the Qur'an, this is also the night God establishes the course of the world for the next year.

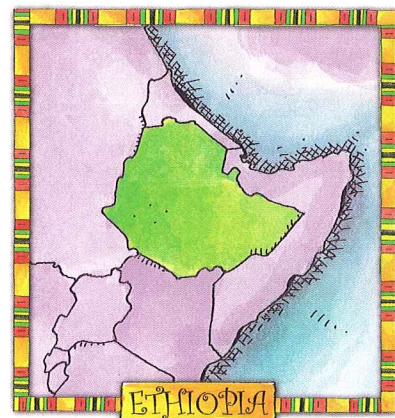
The biggest parties of the year take place at the end of Ramadan during Id-al-Fitr, the Feast of Fast Breaking. For three days, friends and families partake in huge, often elaborate feasts and give gifts. Lights are used for decoration, and people don their best clothes for the occasion.

Depending on the Islamic nation, various social norms may change a bit during this month. Businesses may close early in the afternoon but then open again after dark when people are out visiting and celebrating; alcohol is prohibited; and schools usually let out early each day during the month.



MERRY GANNA!

An Ancient Celebration Still Being Practiced



If you happen to be in East Africa during the holiday season, visit Ethiopia. It is one of the oldest Christian nations in the world. Ganna, or Christmas, is celebrated on January 7 in accordance with the Coptic Church calendar. The 40 days prior to Christmas are dedicated to spiritual preparation and fasting and concludes with Mass on Christmas morning.

Since ancient times, each person enters the church wearing white and carrying a candle. Everyone circles around the inside of the building three times. There are no chairs in Ethiopian churches, so they stand for the long (sometimes three hours!) Christmas ceremony.

Christmas dinner cuisine is comprised of sourdough spongy bread, injera, and a spicy chicken stew, doro wat. Gift giving or receiving is not a significant part of Christmas in Ethiopia. Ganna is all about family and spiritual matters.

NEW PROGRAMS FROM TV ASIA



◀◀ Carry on Shekhar

This very popular talk show brings you Shekhar at his best! With topical humor of the day and famous stars to interview, Shekhar will make you laugh while you think!

◀◀ Kyamaat

In this new drama, Anamika, a beautiful woman, is CEO of a company doing big business with the Ahuja family. The Ahujas recently celebrated the engagement of their son, Uday, to Pooja. Can Pooja trust Uday to be faithful to her, when he and Anamika spend so much time together?

Also your provider of local news coverage and community events.



All Your Favorite Italian Entertainment



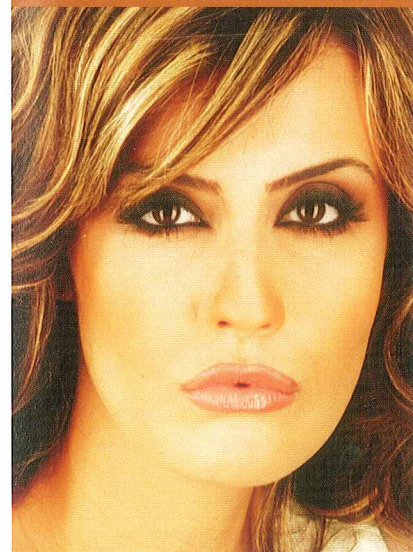
RAI promotes the rich culture of Italy through a unique blend of festivals, concerts, movies, cooking shows, game shows, documentaries and news.

Highlights:

- * Italian movies, soccer games, music, game shows and children's programming
- * Full Christmas events from Vatican City



THE HEARTBEAT OF ARAB LIFE



ART links Arab communities to their homeland with programming in their own language and is committed to delivering a cultural message to Arab Americans.

Highlights:

- * The best selection of live sporting events from the Middle East
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- * Drama, news, variety and entertainment
- * Event programming covering national events, festivals and religious celebrations from around the Arab world



FIVE NIGHTS OF DIWALI

A Dazzling Festival of Lights

Light represents all things pure and good, and its very presence drives away darkness – the symbol of evil. This philosophy is the basis for the five-night Indian holiday known as Diwali, or the Festival of Lights. In homes all over the country, oil lamps or candles are lighted and allowed to burn throughout the night to serve this purpose.

While the holiday has various meanings throughout India, everyone considers Diwali the ultimate celebration of life's renewal for the New Year.

Each day has its own significance and rituals associated with age-old myths and legends. Observers may celebrate the

different days by taking a ceremonial bath to cleanse oneself of the past year, setting off huge fireworks displays, feasting with friends and family, gambling to assure wealth in the upcoming year, or adorning and worshipping the source of their income (which could be anything from a herd of cattle to a school bus) in a celebration of the New Year's prosperity.

Diwali is as well known and widely celebrated as Christmas is in America. In fact, there are large Diwali celebrations held within the Asian Indian populations here in the U.S. Maybe you'll want to take part... or decorate and worship the computer in your cubicle!

LEGEND OF LA BEFANA

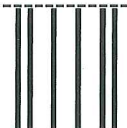
Move Over Santa Claus – La Befana Takes the Cake

She may look more like a Halloween witch than a Christmas character. Essentially, she's no more than an eccentric old recluse in a small Italian village who spends her life sweeping. But once a year on January 5, the old woman – known affectionately as La Befana, the gift-giver – flies through the night sky on her broom leaving cakes and cookies for children while they sleep.

As the story goes, the Three Kings visited this lonely old lady during their search for the Christ Child. They encouraged Befana to join them in

following the North Star to find this miraculous child sent to save the world. Ah, but Befana decided her household chores were more important and continued to sweep.

However, the idea of this child savior intrigued her, so she gathered up some fresh-baked goodies and a few toys to bring to the baby and decided to try to catch up to the kings. But Befana was too late. So, every year she continues her endless journey in search of the Christ Child and leaves gifts for all of Italy's children.



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