

12 days

freshening up your traditions

from your friends at

new

MOON ideas

ideas

12 days of freshening up your traditions

ADD BOOZE

Instead of a chocolate advent calendar, why not give one with craft beer? A seriously tasty way to countdown the holidays!



Advent calendars aren't just for the little ones. Big kids like surprises too. And booze. Especially leading up to the holidays!

Why not give your favourite someone a lip-smacking, delicious calendar filled with craft beer? There are lots of online stores that offer these tasty treats, but if you want to gear the calendar specifically to your beer-loving someone, why not make it yourself? Grab a box from the liquor store, buy a special box or use shipping tubes to build a 3D tree. Fill it with local craft beer from brewers in your hood.

Wanna take it up a notch? Consider pairing your daily brew with your nightly dinner entree. Fa la la la awesome!

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“ “ **FLY A TUBE**

Is sledding a little too lame for you?
Amp up the adrenaline and blaze
down a wintery track of treachery
& awesomeness at a tube park! ”



Let's face it. Sledding can be a lot of work and sometimes, a sad experience depending on your sled.

Tubing is a completely different sensory extravaganza! Industrial strength tubes blazing down snow-covered ice tracks coupled with the deafening shrills of your entourage as the few tasty swigs of liquid courage slosh in your belly. What could possibly go wrong?

Slide into the holidays this year and don't forget to bring your camera. Tubing mishaps can be pretty epic.

Ho ho hold on for your life!

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MIX UP THE MUSIC

Try expanding your holiday playlist and your mind by adding music from other countries or languages. And da une, and da deux ...



From the unmistakable island vibes of steelpan drums to the energetic & rhythmic pumping of a German accordion, you can find just about any type of music to suit your holiday mood. The possibilities are endless! You could have a playlist featuring the same song sung in 20 different languages, a Santa-themed playlist, or even the same playlist but have an east coast AND west coast version. Ooh, our ears are perking up!

With access to so many amazing tunes, why aren't we all doing this? So, what's your fabulous new playlist going to feature?

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BAKE SOMEONE HAPPY

Spending too much time in the kitchen over the holidays? Master one treat to share - it gives your friends something to look forward to annually and gives you time back.



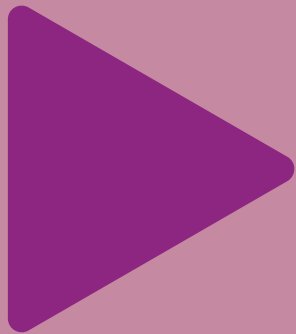
Floured noses, matching aprons, giggling while licking the cookie spoon by the glow of the Christmas lights... Let's be honest, holiday baking is labour-intensive, expensive, and oh, so time-consuming! The calculations that go into when to start, the ingredients needed to make a 5x batch, the selecting of packaging that will look beautiful but keep your treats fresh, the scheduling for visits and deliveries, the extras on hand for friends that were "just in the neighbourhood" or the "did we account for them?" acquaintances... Then multiply that by however many recipes you're making. It loses its lustre and becomes a chore quickly.

Choose one thing to make and make it really well. You still get your Pinterest-perfect memories without the added stress and time commitment. In November you'll notice people will start to ask if you'll be making your treat again this year.

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HIT 'PLAY'

The holidays just aren't complete without watching your favourite festive, cinematic marvel. And yes, Die Hard is a Christmas movie.



Whether it's an action-packed classic or a newly released rom-com, there's something special about watching your favourite Christmas flick with a little glass of boozy egg nog and a side of salty popcorn.

If you live in a part of the world where there's snow, start a warm, crackling fire! Ooh, ambiance.

And just to be clear, the original Die Hard IS a Christmas movie!

FACTS:

1. Main character's goal is to see his family for Christmas.
2. Movie takes place on Christmas Eve and there is holiday decor in numerous scenes.
3. Flick's villain invokes the Christmas spirit: "It's Christmas, Theo, it's a time for miracles."
4. Soundtrack features multiple Christmas tunes.
5. Santa Claus makes an appearance (ok, it's in the form of a dead terrorist, but he still makes a not-so-jolly appearance).

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PARK THE FUN

Missing a little holiday spirit
maneuvering around the chaos,
otherwise known as the
mall parking la la lot?



Turn misery into magic with this parking lot bingo card! Fun for the whole vehicle.

parking lot bingo



car with antlers	Santa hat	driver honking at pedestrian
vehicle with alarm sounding	shopper on phone not paying attention to traffic	shopper with more than 5 bags
people laughing	shopper looking for misplaced car	car with Rudolph's nose
child skipping	vehicle with dent in rear corner	person pointing

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“ GET SNEAKY

We all know holiday malls can push even a peace-loving, meditation guru over the edge. Maintain your inner 'om mantra' and get sneaky!

”

Do you gather with the same people every holiday season? Bring a little extra joy to your gift-giving extravaganza by gamifying the experience. Like Elf on a Shelf ... but on steroids!

Hide a gift in the host's home. The host has one year to find the non-perishable gift (look, it should go without saying the gift can't rot, but we're making it known -- might make it too easy to find). The next year, the old host has to hide the gift in the new host's home.

Amp up the fun by altering the gift each year! Ultimate kudos go to the hider who displays the gift in the open and no one sees it.

This spin will lessen your trips to the mall by one gift. You're welcome

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MORE DECOR

Instead of buying new decor, or having different pieces for every season, shake the dust off those spring wreaths and add some holiday ribbon. Less spending, less storage, entirely customizable!



Totes, boxes, and bags - in closets, garages, and basements. We have decor for every holiday, long weekend, and special occasion in our homes.

Reduce, reuse, recycle! Look for pieces that you can customize depending on the season. Add a little razzle-dazzle to your front door wreath by adding a holiday ribbon, give the Easter bunny a Santa hat, or break out the green St. Patrick's Day beer mugs. Utilizing your decor in other ways means less storage space needed and less spent on seasonal pieces.

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CRACK A TUNE

Who needs to go caroling door-to-door when you've got a microphone and a 200-watt solid state amp?



What could be more wholesome than the angelic voices of a small choir going door-to-door on a winter's eve as wisps of snow fall gingerly from the sky? Wholesome, yes. But who asked for wholesome? Not us!

We want to hear the bass pounding and the glassware shaking at our beloved local pub as we belt out the lyrics to our favourite Christmas karaoke tunes!

And if alcohol is involved, please heed this warning: do NOT sing a Mariah Carey song. Even if you know every word and the 'holidays aren't complete without it'. You do not ... nor will you ever ... sound like Mariah. Put the microphone down and walk away.

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TOSS THE TURKEY

Tired of turkey? Us too! Why not mix up your standard, old, bland holiday dinner for something deliciously untraditional!



Who said you can only have dry turkey and mashed potatoes for family holiday gatherings? Not us!

The pandemic proved it's not the meal, but the memories we make when we're together. Why not amp up your menu this year with items out of the 'traditional mealtime' box?

Wake up those taste buds by serving platters of Noel Nachos, Be Merry Meatloaf, 'Tis the Season Sushi, and Ho Ho Hoagies. Lean away from the expected. Yule love it.

Disclaimer: Don't be surprised if you hear family members say "remember last year when we ate ____ over the holidays? That was fun! Can we do that again?" Oh, and you're welcome.

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STUFF THAT THANG

Been using the same stocking since it was assigned to you at birth? Get unconventional this holiday season.



Get creatively unconventional with your stocking choice. Instead of hanging the standard stocking with your name embroidered across the faux fur trimmed top, let your personality shine while sending a not-so-subtle hint to old Saint Nick.

Allude to a favourite hobby, new-found interest or something you want to try. Dangle a reusable wine bag, club-less golf bag or even your kid's empty Halloween candy bucket from your mantle this Christmas Eve! Got something big on your wish list? Be sure to hang a pillowcase, laundry basket or hockey bag -- you know, something with extra space inside!

Bet Rockwell never painted a heartwarming holiday scene that looked like that ...

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“ “ **FLUFF MY F.U.R.**

The party starts when the presents are all unwrapped. Not because you have shiny new things to play with. No! It's time to unleash the F.U.R.!



Who wants an orderly, ho-hum holiday morning? Not us! We want a Christmas filled with chaos and chuckles!

Hordes of wrapping strewn across the living room floor doesn't need an immediate intervention (aka clean up). It's F.U.R. (Festive debris Used Repeatedly – obviously, the 'd' is silent).

Lay on the floor amid your wrapping paper waste to make F.U.R. angels or ball it up to have a F.U.R.ball fight. Paper, ribbons and bows oh my! So many possibilities. So much delight. Yep, it's FUN F.U.R.!



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