

# MLA- DOST. DOBRO

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**CENTAR ZA MLADKZZ**

## Celebration

Hello to all of you readers, new editor is finally here.

I want to start by saying “Merry Christmas” to all of us. This is my first Christmas, first article, and first Introduction to you. Do you have any idea about my excitement? There is not be a better time of the year to feel like this. I now have the opportunity to see what it feels like, so far I have seen and wondered about it only in movies before.

Christmas has some power like connecting people. Sometimes we cannot show our emotions clearly or efficiently. However, days like Christmas naturally bring us close together. When since I came here people's acts helped to internalize this day. Now I know the movies' Christmas scenes showed real feelings.

In this special edition of magazine Jura (Yordan) wrote about celebrating Christmas in Bulgaria. You can find out what are similarities and

differences in his article. I wrote about the holidays in Turkey and I hope my first Christmas ever will be as perfect as it seems. Sandra wrote about gibanica and how her mother is making the best one. Kristina and Vendi shared with us what are their traditions in the season of holidays. Marija wrote about Christmas in Italy and how does it look. Ivana wrote about her traditions of celebrating Christmas and she shared what is her favourite thing to do on her birthday witch is just around the corner of Christmas. Finally, on last pages, you can find creative works, comic, and most interested one, how do you say Merry Christmas in other languages.

If you want to share your articles, photos, poems or something else, you can reach us on [mladost-dobro@gmail.com](mailto:mladost-dobro@gmail.com)

I wish you all the best for the holidays and enjoy our Christmas edition of mla.dost-dobro magazine.

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# X-mas in Bulgaria

**Jura's edition**

Santa is real, but he is what?!? This counts about me as well. Although, I don't know how real I am until I eat my first sarma. Yes, we eat sarma too, but ours are just a bit different. Smaller. Actually, that's maybe the only difference. I don't know how everybody in Bulgaria celebrate this holiday, so I can't speak about all of the Bulgarians. I can tell you about my family and me. We don't really celebrate "Christmas". In fact, for us, the celebration is at Christmas eve. We are not too big, but, also, not too small group. Usually, between ten - thirteen people, including the children. Our tradition is pretty simple and a bit modernly moderated. We do traditional stuff, but only those we want. As ortodoxes, we don't do the things very different then the Catholics, I think. Actually, the rituals we do are not about religion at all. We are gathering, at the night of

24th, in the home of the oldest one. There are seven or nine types of food, depending on how many are we every year. I don't know all the English names of the food, so will miss the counting part and I'll tell you only my favorite ones, which are the bean, because it's so good, the meat and the sarma, of course, because... yeah, you know why. In the first hours when and while we are gathering, there's a lot of loud music, mostly x-mas songs, a lot of talking, everybody talks with everybody, like at a social event, although, it's, indeed, something like social event, because we haven't seen each other through the last year. We are smoking and drinking in the kitchen, preparing the food and the table, usually the older females and the children run and play around the apartment. It's quite traditional like in every family. Some are bragging whith their success through the year, in the business, in the love or just regularly in the life. Some are complaining about the same fields. The blame game is always there, of

course, it doesn't miss a holiday, you know how it is: "You are wrong!", "Why would you do this?", "That", bla bla bla, just the holiday spirit, you know.

After a while, when everything is ready, we are sitting around the table and low the music. Everybody shuts up and the youngest one is saying the prayer. This is the only religion-related thing we do. It's more like a recital, actually. Then the best thing activity of the night begins. The eating. Everyone loves everyone during the actual dinner. No blame game or passive-aggressive jokes in that time. Maybe, because the food is so good, it's impossible to hate even your worse enemy, while eating it. You want this too last forever. You wish to do only this every second until the end of eternity. Probably it's pointless to say, but, as you can see, this is my favorite Christmas- ritual. But, as everything else, in some moment, this ends too and we go back to the not so delicious stuff.

The present-giving is the next appointment in the list. It's more for the kids, but we all like it, because there's something for the adults as



well - my show. Almost every year in the last five, six years, I dress like Santa to give the gifts and improvise a little show for everybody and, mostly, myself. Usually, at this point I'm already in the mood, so my nose, cheeks become naturally red, and my voice goes, naturally, deeper. The only problem is the pants are always trying to fall off my skinny ass, but Santa doesn't care about that, kids.

A part of our tradition is the "send-off" of the year. We are doing it in circle, one by one, by speaking what have happened in it, the good and the bad things and saying out loud what we wish to happen in the next one. I'm not religious or superstitious, but I must admit, most of the things that everybody wishes for themselves that night, are really coming true. Maybe not always literal or, sometimes, a bit later, but they do. It's looks kind of scary now, when I think about it and sounds quite sectarian and maybe it is, but that's faith, I guess. Last year, for example, I wished to go abroad and to start getting money for my "art". Well, I'm not saying anything, but this is exactly what is happening to me right now. I thought it will be the best thing ever, but nobody have promised me that. Nobody says it's gonna be easy or good, even. They just said it's gonna happen. It is. This will be my first year away from this tradition and my family, from the food, the blame game and from my Santa show. It will be different. I don't know if it will be easy or even good. I just know I wished for it and it will really happen. I am not sorry, nor excited. Although, I'm gonna miss the food, tho. But I'm curious. Let's see like how it is gonna be here and if the things I wish for this year are, again, gonna happen. Meanwhile, I wish you a merry Christmas. Cheers!

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## Ajš - my holidays in Turkey

**H**i! I'm excited because of writing this article. This is a new thing for me. I'm Aysenur and came from Turkey with the European Solidarity Corps project. I'm a volunteer in Mreža udruga Zagor. It is my first week and Christmas. This is a new and enjoyable experience for me.

In Turkey, we have different kinds of holidays like public holidays and religious holidays. Every holiday evokes a different feeling. While you can feel peaceful on religious holidays, you can feel proud on national holidays. Even if your religious belief is not very strong, you can feel closer to other people, the New Year has that power.

We don't celebrate Christmas but we celebrate New Year like Christmas. New Year's Eve is exciting and fun. The best game is Bingo this night and traditionally we watch belly dancers on TV.

The most exciting and biggest event of the New Year is the New Year lottery. Everybody buys tickets for the lottery and watches on TV. Everyone believes they will get the jackpot. The New Year is always exciting because it is believed to bring good

things. The streets are adorned with lights and hope fills one's heart.

We don't have many special meals for the New Year, but some things are similar to New Year's Eve. Chestnuts are indispensable things for us at this time of year. You can see the chestnut sellers with some little cars like an oven everywhere. Some people prefer to cook turkey in Turkey, I know it sounds funny.

TV series and shows change their concept for the New Year and organize some enjoyable competitions. You can see the famous singer at The Voice Turkey on New Year's Eve.

So we like to celebrate the coming New Year and we try to do something special. We started talking about the night a month ago. We drink something and spend a good time with our loved ones. We try to make good memories.

It is great excitement for me to enter the New Year here and I am happy to share this excitement with the people here. I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

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# Božić bez gibanice

## nije potpuni Božić

Moja mama radi najbolju gibanicu i to je jednostavno tako. Dakle, ne postoji Božić, a da ona nije napravila svoju prefinu gibanicu, bilo da je s makom (makovnjača), bilo da je s orahom (orehnjača) ili s nečim drugim. Iako makovnjača i orehnjača su top! Osim što je jako fina i uvijek savršeno pisana, s točnim omjerom file i tijesta, zanimljivo je to da ne radi po pisanom receptu nego sve iz glave, kaj ne zvuči nikako lagano, pogotovo za nas koji nismo nešto previše vješti s pečenjem zahtjevnih kolača. Moja majka tvrdi da u mojim godinama nije znala raditi takve zahtjevne kolače pa se nadam da ima šanse i za mene da uz nju naučim jer bi jako voljela jednog dana ispeći finu gibanicu svojoj djevojčici pa držimo fige, možda dogodine jer ove godine definitivno jedemo od moje mame pošto uz jednogodišnju kćer mogu se peći samo jednostavni kolači. Rado bi da vam mogu podijeliti recept od gibanice, ali eto to nije moguće, možete jedino doći degustirati. Nadam se da i vi imate neki kolač koji vas razveseli tijekom blagdana. Uživajte!



## Moj Božić!

Božić! Moj omiljeni blagdan. Pun je veselja, fine hrane, druženja s obitelji i prijateljima. Na Badnjak je obavezno kićenje i dekoriranje bora. Naravno, slijedi i čišćenje te spremanje božićnih kolačića. Nakon završenih obaveza na večer se svi zajedno okupimo oko stola i jedemo francusku salatu, puricu i mlince. Osim zajedničkih druženja ovaj blagdan mi je poseban jer je čitav grad okićen i prekrasan te u kafićima sviraju božićne pjesme. Vlada harmonična atmosfera te su svi dobre volje.

Iako već dugo nije padao snijeg za Božić nadam se da će ovaj konačno biti bijeli i snježni!



# Slavljenje Božića

Božić je za mene uvijek bio blagdan kad smo svi skupa. Uglavnom su na stolu francuska salata, oni suhi kolači (koje zapravo većina ljudi ne voli - e pa ja ih volim, volim čak i one breskvice koje nitko ne voli), često zapravo budu i gazirani sokovi. Baš je neki dan netko rekao da pamti Božiće po tome što su uvijek na stolu gazirani sokovi. Upaljena je neka prigodna glazba koja najčešće uključuje Srebrna krila. Opušteni smo i smijemo se. Obavezno je na TVu Sam u kući ili Zapravo ljubav. Ili matineja Harry Pottera. Imam 33 Božića iza sebe, svaki je bio poseban i drugačiji. Prve Božiće pamtim po odlascima u Viroviticu. Po sanjkanju, snijegu, mirisu pravog bora, kuglicama koje bi se razbile čim bi pale na pod, onim šljokastim vrpčama za ukrašavanje i celofanu koji bi skrivao plišanca ili Barbie lutku. Ove zadnje Božiće imam umjetni bor, plastične kuglice koje su neuništive, nema snijega, nema bome ni šuška-vog celofana (uglavnom čarape i krema za ruke) ali i dalje ima puno ljubavi i zagrljaja. I vjerujem da je u tome bit. Ljudi koje volim, osjećaj mira i spokoja. To su meni blagdani, odnosno to mi je bit Božića. I želim takve Božiće imati do zauvijek.



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# Ginger Thins Recipe

## INGREDIENTS (40 thin cookies)

- 150 g melted butter
- 100 g (1/2 cup) granulated sugar
- 4 tablespoons of grape molasses
- 300 g (2.5 cups) flour
- 3 g (1 teaspoon) baking soda
- Pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 full teaspoon of powdered ginger

 TASTE:



TIME OF PREP:



DIFFICULTY:



*\*It will be cooked in a preheated oven at 180 degrees for 10-12 minutes on a finless setting.*

The most important thing you need to know before making this recipe is that you need to cool it for 3-4 hours.

We start by melting the butter. If you want to make the recipe vegan or vegetarian, you can use coconut oil. There is no need to melt all of it on the stove, if you take it off the stove before some of it melts, the rest will melt and reach the ideal temperature. While the butter is melting, we can mix the flour, salt, baking soda, ginger, and cinnamon and set aside. When the oil becomes lukewarm, first add the sugar and mix, and then add the molasses. Then we can add the flour mixture and mix it. It will be a soft dough. You can put it in the freezer by giving it a long thin shape using cling film. If you want to use a cookie cutter, you can only keep it in the fridge for 2 hours and open it to shape it. After it has cooled enough, you can slice and cook it. If you want to cook it later keep some in the freezer.

You should try not to cook too much. It is an easy-to-keep recipe as there are no eggs. You can [check the video](#) for the rest of the details.

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# BUON NATALE

*Ukrasi i lampice ni u Rimu ipak ne mogu nadmašiti naš tradicionalni zagrebački advent, a svima vam ovom prilikom poručujem Buon Natale!*

Vrijeme adventa i Božića drugačije se slavi u raznim dijelovima svijeta. Prije nekoliko godina imala sam priliku iskusiti pravi božićni duh talijanskog Božića. Kao volonterka Europskih snaga solidarnosti u Italiji, dio svoje volonterske službe provela sam i u ovo vrijeme, no sam dan Božića ipak sam odlučila provesti sa svojom obitelji u Hrvatskoj.

Ove godine vratila sam se u Italiju kako bih ponovno doživjela advent u Italiji. Sigurno je da se ne razlikujemo po obilju hrane koje nas okružuje u ovo prekrasno blagdansko doba. Tradicije slavljenja Božića različite su i od obitelji do obitelji, no ono na što Talijani ulažu mnogo više pažnje nego mi su božićne jasllice koje kod njih nalikuju na minijturna sela i gradove sa mnogim realističnim detaljima. Ono što me iznenadilo je da su već toliko usavršili tehnike slaganja jasllica da su u njih počeli ugrađivati male akvarijske pumpe kako bi mini fontanama uredili minijturne bunare i fontane imaginarnih gradića. Dok sam tako prošli tjedan hodala ulicama Rima, zatekla sam se na Piazzu Navoni na kojoj se baš održavao božićni sajam. Redovi

za štandovima na kojima se kupuju dijelovi mini jasllica bili su krcati glasnim Talijanima koji su se skoro potukli oko malih figurica farmera. Kao i mi, Talijani moraju imati bogate trpeze. Kao ljubiteljica slatkog, fokusirati ću se na ono što od prije nekoliko godina možete nabaviti i u našim trgovinama. Panettone vrsta je slatkog peciva/kruha sa komadićima suhog voća kojeg talijani konzumiraju u vrijeme Božića i Nove Godine. Po dosadašnjem iskustvu, mogu potvrditi kako su u ovo doba godine trgovine prepune ovog finog deserta, a u svakim kolicima ispred mene na blagajnama vidjela sam barem jednu pakiranje ovog slatkiša. Za one koji ne vole kandirano voće, postoji Pandoro. Pandoro bi usporedila sa našim božićnim kuglofom. Fin, žučkasti i slatki desert koji može biti punjen čokoladom podjednako je popularan među Talijanima, a također se može kupiti u našim trgovinama.

Mali, slatki i šareni kolačići na kavke smo navikli, poznati su i u Italiji. Ono što sam probala zadnje, bili su borići od meringue sa preljevom od pistacije i šarenim bombončićima. Božićna atmosfera sa zvukovima

zvončica i slatkih tonova ne propušta se ni u Italiji. Kroz razgovor sa lokalcima malog gradića Chieti-a shvatila sam da Talijani nemaju puno božićnih pjesama, osim religijskih talijanskih, u trgovinama, kafićima i trgovima puštaju samo klasike na engleskom. Poznavajući činjenicu kako većina Talijana ne priča engleski, ove su blagdanske note ipak dobro prihvaćene u društvu.



# Božić za rođendan!

Božić za mene ima posebno značenje. Božić je vrijeme kada se cijela obitelj okupi oko stola i oko božićnog drvca okićenog šarenim lampicama i još šarenijim kuglicama. Kada se slušaju božićne pjesme i pije kuhano vino. Božić je za mene poseban jer u sklopu Božića slavimo i moj rođendan. Božić volim i zbog toga što je specifičan zbog darivanja poklonima, za svakoga ponešto. Božić je vrijeme ljubavi, sreće, mira, radosti, veselja i blagostanja. Za vrijeme Božića najviše volim kada se radi francuska salata i peku se božićni kolači, te kada cijela kuća miriše po još vrućim tek ispečenim kolačićima. Božić mi

je poseban i zato što moji roditelji slave godišnjicu braka na sam Badnjak. Najviše volim kada jedemo najpoznatije jelo zagorja, zagorsku puricu s mlincima i francusku salatu, a vlada opuštajuća i idilična atmosfera u našem domu. Još bi istakla kako za Božić volim prošetati po zagrebačkom adventu predvečer kada se upale sva ona silna svijetla i lampice. Svake godine imamo već tradiciju da za moj rođendan, 27.12. prošetamo Zagrebom, slušamo božićne pjesme, a najljepše je sjesti na šalicu vruće čokolade ili šalicu kuhanoga vina.

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## THE TOP 5 CHRISTMAS SONGS STREAMED ON



ALL TIME GLOBALLY



1. "All I Want for Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey



2. "Last Christmas" by Wham!



3. "Santa Tell Me" by Ariana Grande



4. "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" by Michael Bublé



5. "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" by Brenda Lee





**S**nijeg svud pada  
 Zvona zvone  
 Srca mlada vesele se  
 To je vrijeme ljubavi i mira  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome

**P**onoć je blizu (Ponoć je blizu)  
 Darovi stižu (Darovi stižu)  
 Cijelo društvo opet je tu  
 Kad bi barem Božić bio  
 Svaku baš svaku subotu  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome  
 Sretan Božić svakome

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# Sretan Božić svakome!



**Buon Natale**

*Feliz Navidad*

*Joyeux Noël*

*Sretan Božić*

*Frohe Weihnachten*

*God Jul*

**Merry Christmas**

**Prettige Kerstdagen**

**聖誕快樂**

**Häid Jõule**

**Feliz Natal**

**καλά Χριστούγεννα**

**Весела Коледа**



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