

Common Filipino New Year Traditions

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New Year's Eve is one of the most festive celebrations in the Philippines. On this day, families gather for a night of feasting and merry making. At midnight, Pinoys usually welcome the New Year with loud noises by using fireworks and firecrackers with the belief that it will bring them luck on the coming year.

Even in this day and age, other Filipinos still observe these kinds of traditions and continue to wish that by doing so, it will bring them luck for the coming year. Let's take a look at some of the usual Filipino New Year Traditions:

1. Media Noche



Media Noche is a Spanish term literally translated into English as midnight. It is a New Year Eve's feast where sumptuous dishes are served. The *Media Noche* may seem like any other ordinary dinner for others, but for superstitious Filipinos, the dishes served on the table are important to bring more luck for the New Year.

A typical staple for *Media Noche* are the *pancit* or noodles which signifies long life and rice cakes made of *malagkit* or sticky rice like *biko* (so the good fortune will stick and also to strengthen the family's bond).

Some serve whole fish because it denotes prosperity (in Chinese fortune). Just make sure not to turn it over when it's served because flipping the fish is seen to symbolize a travel accident. While chicken is not served during this feast because this animal scavenges for food, which symbolizes poverty for the whole year.

2. 12 Lucky Fruits



A usual centrepiece for the *Media Noche* table are 12 round (the shape signifies prosperity) fruits like watermelon, oranges, grapes etc., to represent each month of the year. Preferably the fruits should be round in shape and sweet in taste.

3. Inviting Luck in the Home



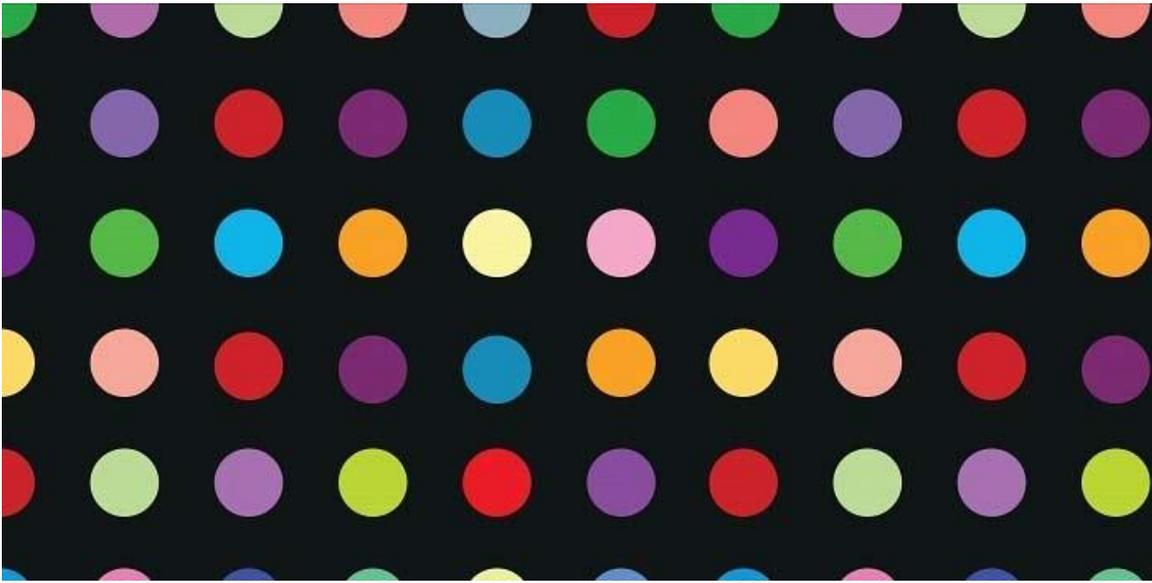
To invite luck in, some keep the doors, windows, and even cabinets of their houses open before the clock strikes 12 to invite fortune and prosperity. Some also believe that keeping houses bright during New Year's Eve is important to herald a brighter future.

4. Cleaning the House on New Year



Cleaning the house on the first day of the year is a no-no to some with the belief that they will be “sweeping out” the luck that came in during New Year's Eve. This is why most Filipinos are busy cleaning and keeping their homes spick-and-span before they welcome the New Year.

5. Wearing Polka-Dots



One of the “trendiest” fashions during New Year’s Eve is clothes with polka-dot because the round patterns that signifies prosperity.

6. Keeping Money in Wallets



Spending is discouraged during New Year’s Eve and even on New Year’s Day because it signifies shelling out money all throughout the year. To ensure that pockets are full for the coming year, some keep “new” or crisp money in their wallets, while others keep coins in their pockets to attract wealth. Others even pin an envelope with money on their pajamas when they go to sleep so they are always close to cash and will never run out of money.

7. Jumping for New Year



Children are encouraged to jump as high as they can when the clock strikes exactly at midnight because of the belief that this will make them taller.

There's no harm in trying and whatever traditions you may choose to follow, remember that this time is for you to enjoy your New Year's Eve celebration with your family and friends! Have a safe and prosperous New Year!

Ref.: <http://www.clarkisit.com/filipino-new-year-traditions/>

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