

Symbols and traditions of Christmas in Italy

Symbols of Christmas in Italy are undoubtedly the **Christmas tree and the crib**.



We set up the Christmas tree on December 8th and remove it on the Epiphany or 6th January.

The first nativity scene dates back to St. Francis of Assisi who realized in 1223 a first version of living nativity by introducing new elements, which now for us are essential parts of the Nativity, the ox and the donkey, just to better understand the conditions and the place where Jesus was born.

Among the symbols that are part of the Christmas tradition we also find the poinsettia, holly leaves and mistletoe.



In most parts of the Italian regions celebrations of Christmas start on Christmas Eve, December 24th, during which everyone gathers for dinner and at midnight they open the gifts and go to mass. On Christmas Day we meet family for lunch and many times we spend the afternoon playing some games as the traditional Bingo, and eating sweets as “panettone”, “pandoro”, etc.

Usually between a dish and the other, adults and children play cards or eat walnuts, almonds and hazelnuts. The fruit concluded the hearty meal, usually ate oranges, tangerines, pears and apples, prickly pears.

The streets are covered in lights and there is an air of celebration, with many thousands of Christmas decorations.

Bagheria



Palermo

