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Everyone loves a good holiday, no matter if you're commemorating a special occasion or just looking for a day out of the office. Check out the important holidays in these articles. There are two months left before the holiday season begins. Have you started saving? Every year, a friend of mine says she is ill-prepared to buy holiday gifts for her family, or to visit relatives who live outside the city. This stress is heartbreaking, especially because it could be avoided with a little planning. Most people don't save all year for the holidays. Instead, they wait until Halloween or Thanksgiving, then start checking the balances in their accounts, wondering how much money they can spend on vacation trips and gifts. But it's a bad strategy. Holidays are extremely predictable: they occur at the same time each year. Why not save the whole year for this annual expense, rather than waiting until October or November? Assign an account for travel and gifts. So, what can you do now that can help you be better prepared for next year's vacation? Open a savings account for holiday travel and gifts. Online banks like SmartyPig and Capital One 360 allow you to open multiple under accounts, each for a specific purpose. Contribute \$20 or \$30 per month (or more) to this account. Have this money automatically withdrawn from your checking account. By the end of the year, you'll have \$240 (at \$20 per month) or \$360 (at \$30 per month). That's enough to fill your gas tank and drive to your parents' house with a chest full of gifts. Don't give up this year! Although the time is getting shorter, you can always save for this year if you work hard at it. The first step is to significantly reduce your day-to-day expenses. Do you normally eat at the restaurant every Friday night? Do you buy beer, chips or soda at the grocery store? Cut off those luxuries. Put the savings in your holiday fund. Then take some extra weekend work, such as babysitting, mowing lawns or raking leaves. Put all the extra income in your holiday fund. Once you've saved this year's funds, start preparing for next year by setting up these accounts with automatic withdrawal. They will help you save for next year's holiday season all year round, even on summer dog days. Paula Pant blogs to AffordAnything.com about building wealth and living life on your own terms. It has traveled to nearly 30 countries, owns six rental units that produce thousands of dollars in and runs his own digital marketing company. Follow Paula on Twitter: @AffordAnything. Garland, firs, branches, mistletoe, seasonal flowers, it adds life to your home. I still have a lot of white amaryllis in jars and paper whites at the beginning of the season, says designer Mark D. Sikes. They last the whole holiday season and look festive. 'is a great way to bring the holidays home without a huge fuss. I think the flowers in a sexy boat brings the holiday home immediatemen, interior designer Robert Passal. E terrace our house in garlands of fir and magnolia. The smell and the look are so festive, explains designer Sara Gilbane. Holidays are about spreading joy and these decorations are manifestations of that joy. 2. A little sparkle. Whether it's candles, glittering decorations or even something simple like mercury glass or vases, says Nicole Gibbons, an interior designer and blogger. No holiday sparkle and sparkle is always a festive way to welcome the holidays to your home. 3. Candles. Deck up the 5 senses, advises designer Ryan Saghian. Fill the house with beautiful scented candles that not only warm the space, but give the house a festive scent. You may not have a fireplace, but the candles will at least make you feel warm, golden and the traditions of the holidays, advises interior designer Jamie Drake. A favorite designer? Lots of votives. Getty Images 4. Subtle holiday fragrances. This doesn't need to be done with a candle— try making your own! Making spices on the stove or a holiday candle will make your home comfortable and festive, says Christina Bryant, designer and founder of St. Frank Textiles. 5. A comfortable throw. And what could be more comfortable than cashmere? Colored cashmere jets add a festive texture to your décor, says Saghian. 6. An ornate fireplace. This is a simple and natural thing, says interior designer Gideon Mendelson. Sometimes I'm going to go outside and pick up acorns or leaves and rest them on the fireplace. Add a few hurricanes filled with natural elements and candles for a quick and festive look. Getty Images 7. Versatile table linen. Crispy tablecloths and white towels are all you need, says Sikes. 8. A well-stocked bar. Whisky spicy drinks make you feel warm and festive, says Forbes, 30, designer under 30, Lauren Geremia. Designer suggestions include cases of rosé. Veuve Clicquot champagne or your own signature cocktail. I love the idea of doing something unique for that night, suggests designer Kelly Lamb. His date? I like to mix in fresh juice, fruit and even herbs. These personal touches as well as great cheese with crackers, some finger food and a festive game music list are all you really need to have a fantastic party. Getty Images 9. A holiday tradition. Whether it's holiday family photos, a tree decorated with vintage ornaments or decorations made by family or friends, this is how traditions are remembered, immortalized and passed down through the generations, explains Katalan from Curated by St. Charles. 10. A natural Christmas tree (if you celebrate Christmas, of course). Perhaps one of the greatest holiday traditions, a real tree brings in a charming aroma, one unmatched by scented holiday candles. It should be decorated with meaning, says Saghian. 11. Holiday music. A sure way to get even the biggest Grinch in the holiday spirit. 12. Cookies! Add a little fantasy with treats. Leave the decorative cookies aside in playful three-tier trays, Mr. Saghian. 13. Eggnog. It's my guilty pleasure, says designer Jon Call. We're celebrating jazz musicians, Charles Mingus's version is the best. Getty Images 14. A good attitude, a warm heart. After all, that's what holidays are about. This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported on this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about it and content similar to piano.io Take most of the stress and all the noise from Thanksgiving dinner. We swapped a quick pumpkin soup for pumpkin pie, an easy mushroom filling for turkey stuffing, and included a host of other satisfying but simple recipes to create this easy holiday dinner. Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner We give your favorite Thanksgiving flavors — sweet potato, cranberry and apple — a makeover for this traditional Thanksgiving dinner. All the classics are here with some tasty touches, like sweet potato cookies and a French bread and sausage stuffing. Festive Hanukkah menu Traditional enough to satisfy the great-grandmother with a few surprises to shock the children's table, our Hanukkah menu is a pure delight, from its challah beginning to its late frozen doughnut. Christmas cocktails and nibbles When you're busy enslaving on a Christmas dinner masterpiece, everyone is, well, hungry. Soothe all your guests with this menu of dips, bars, cups and puffs, and a few cocktails thrown in the right way. Christmas Dinner Jacket-and-Cravate When your great-uncle came to The Christmas dinner with flip flops, you knew it was time for a more formal vacation. Our elegant Christmas menu, from wine-infused punch to fresh ham to herbs to tasty meringue cake, is delicious and perfectly complements your best porcelain. Italian Christmas Dinner The basic dishes of Italian cuisine are all here (meatballs, olives, vinegar and pasta) for this holiday dinner that combines the best of Italy with the traditions of Christmas dinner. Elegant New Year's Eve party Fresh fruits, vegetables and seafood, as well as some fine meats, mix for complete flavors in this New Year's Eve party. New Year's Day Brunch This mix of old and new is the perfect menu to celebrate the New Year. Iced bacon and a serving of fruit salad remind guests of a traditional brunch, while a crustless quiche and a fruity, sparkling drink are tasty new additions. New Year's Day Open Day We thought of everything with our menu for an open house on New Year's Day, from homemade cheese sticks and spinach cream dip and safe to salads, rolls, smoked meats, and dessert. Year of dinner Cow With purple eggplant, green dragon drinks, and red-cooked pork, your dinner table has never been as colorful as when you prepare this traditional Chinese meal that is packed with lots of flavor. Easter Lunch with the Family After a long Easter church service, everyone is usually famished. This simple and decadent lunch menu of festive favourites like rack of lamb with mint pesto and a crispy romaine salad and cherry tomatoes with buttermilk dressing is sure to recharge your whole family. Light and elegant Passover Dinner Offer your family a beautiful, leanless meal from this Passover with our elegant menu of chilled Spanish olive dip, herb matzoh balls and an easy-to-prepare fish dish. We even gave you a great, wet Passover Chocolate Cake for dessert! Easy Mom's Day Brunch It's your day and you'll do what you want, starting with doing (or, dare we say, your other half make it) the easiest brunch ever. With stuffed French toast, hard-boiled eggs, iced bacon and a yogurt parfait that's fast and really delicious, this brunch could just eclipse your real Mother's Day gifts. Father's Day Dinner Grill Show your appreciation for your favourite macho man with this easy-to-grill meal. All his favorites are here, including rib-eye steak, Gruyère potato gratin, fresh buttered corn, and homemade ice cream pie. Is it better than that? Memorial Day Summer Kick-off Menu in style with a hot weather menu that culminates in a sweet ice cream pie treat. All the classics are part of this memorable meal, like charbroiled mushrooms, backyard burgers, and grilled chicken. July 4 Cookout Declare your independence from the July 4th ho-hum rate. Our menu of powerful flavor combos (blueberry-cherry pie, anyone?) is enough to disrupt even the most annoying of holiday routines. This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported on this page to help users provide their email addresses. 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