

FIESTA ~ DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

A festival of intimate melancholy and strange gladness
An exuberant, sensual and remarkably life-affirming fiesta for the dead

MENU

Bienvenida ~ Welcome

Tequila Corazón Blanco, Sangrita Roja y Sangrita Verde
Guacamole de la Casa

Antojitos para la Mesa

Sopa de Calabaza y Almendra

mexican pumpkin soup with toasted almonds, homemade mexican crema

Calabaza en Penca

piloncillo baked mexican pumpkin topped with homemade queso fresco and crema

Tamalitos Oaxaqueños de los Angelitos

~for the "little angels" ~corn masa and chicken tamal baked in banana leaf, black oaxacan mole

Platos Fuertes ~ Entrée Choices

Margarita de Flor ~ Wild Hibiscus Flower Margarita

Carne Asada con Almendrado de Hoja Santa

~ to honor the spirits ~grilled skirt steak, almond and hoja santa "holy leaf" mole
green tomatillo rice and sautéed swiss chard

Guajolote en Mole Negro Oaxaqueño

~entice the spirits to the fiesta ~ roast turkey in black mole from Oaxaca
traditional white rice and sweet plantains

Tacos de Mixiote de Cordero en Hoja de Plátano

~ to remember the spirits ~ tacos of lamb shank braised in guajillo adobo and wrapped in banana
leaves, rice and black beans

Postre ~ Dessert

Copita de Mezcal Ilegal Joven

Tamal de Limón con su Taza de Chocolate Abuelita

lime tamal served with an espresso cup of Mexican Hot Chocolate



*Les Dames d'Escoffier
New York*

Gracias

Tequila Corazón ~ Mezcal Ilegal ~ Wild Hibiscus Flower Company ~ Vosges Chocolate
Chairs Dames Joan Bloom and Jeanne Voltz

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

We come but to sleep
We come but to dream
It is not true, it is not true,
That we come to live upon the earth.
Like the grass each spring
We are transformed:
Our hearts grow green,
Put forth their shoots.
Our body is a flower: it blossoms
And then it withers.

Netzahualcoyotl, the great poet-king of Texcoco, 13th Century

Día De Los Muertos is celebrated the first two days of November. Nominally this is the Christian feast of All Saints and All Souls, but it is celebrated in Mexico as nowhere else in the Catholic world. This is the most important celebration in the yearly cycle. This is especially so in rural areas, where the preparations in anticipation of the event are a major preoccupation for much of the year. Celebrations at Christmas and Easter are also of note but are less distinctive in form.

Día de Los Muertos celebrates the memory of loved ones that have gone before us with humor and love. Despite its spooky name and eerie images like the sugar skulls and skeleton dolls, the Mexican Day of the Dead is a joyous look at what happens when the door between the spirit world and the physical world opens. The Day of the Dead is a festival of welcome for the souls of the dead, which the living prepare and delight in. The souls return each year to enjoy the pleasures they once knew in life.

In Mexico, in every village or small town, each household prepares it's offering of food and drink for the dead to be set out along with candles and flowers. The blue smoke of burning copal incense sanctifies the ceremony, just as it has done for centuries. Outside, the peace is shattered by the explosions of fireworks set off to mark the fulfillment of an obligation deeply felt. The whole company of the living and the dead share in the flowering and fruiting of the land which both have cultivated.

~ IN MEXICAN TRADITION ~

DEATH OCCURS THREE TIMES

First, a Physical Death ~ when our hearts stop beating and
the space we occupy loses meaning.

Second, a Symbolic Death ~ when our bodies are lowered into the
ground and returned to the earth.

Third, a Final Death ~ when we cease to exist in the memories of the living

The Day of the Dead honors those that have passed
keeping memories and spirits alive

~ FESTIVAL CALENDAR ~

- * October 25 ~ a *limpia* ritual cleansing with *copal* incense
- * October 28 ~ traditional day to remember those who have died violent deaths. On this night we make an offering in remembrance to those who died on 9/11
- * October 30 ~ family *ofrenda* we remember our loved ones
- * October 31 ~ *Día de Los Angelitos* the night we honor “child spirits”. Miniature food and sweets are eaten
- * November 1 ~ *Todos Santos* “All Saints Day” we make mole a path of *Cempasúchitl* marigold petals to guide the spirits
- * November 2 ~ *Día de Los Muertos* Candle lighting Ceremony
Tequila and mezcal are placed on the *ofrendas* and we feast and drink!

~ 12 ELEMENTS OF THE OFRENDA ~ ALTAR ~

Candles
Marigold flowers
Copal Incense
Crosses
Bread
Papel Picado
Photographs
Water
Tequila
Calaveras (sugar skulls)
Arch for the spirits to pass through
Fruit and food