

# NOVEMBRO

## "MAGOSTO" OR CHESTNUTS' PARTY.

In October and November the chestnuts party is celebrated in Galicia: it consists of baking chestnuts and having them as a kind of dessert. This party is now celebrated at home, but in the past it was typical to celebrate it at the mountain.

Origin of the party: it means the thanksgiving for the collecting of fruits, specially chestnuts. In ancient religious times the chestnut was the symbol of the deads' soul: when you eat a chestnut you free a soul from purgatory. It was also believed that, once the party was over, the deads' souls came to the embers to get warm.

Murguía, a famous Galician XIXth century writer, said that chestnuts and wine symbolize death and life.





In the past, people painted each other's faces with the ashes and jumped over the bonfires because it brings good luck. Traditionally they used to play different games, tell stories and sing songs.

## ALL SAINTS' DAY

All Saints' Day, often shortened to All Saints, is celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup> in Western Christianity, and on the first Sunday after Pentecost in Eastern Christianity in honour of all the saints, known and unknown. In terms of Roman Catholic theology, the following day people celebrate All Souls' Day, when they pray for their beloved departed relatives. The tradition is to go to the cemetery to bring flowers to the dead.



In Galicia, on November the 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrate the day of all saints and we normally prepare a "magosto" or chestnuts party. It's usually celebrated at home, but, when possible, it's made outdoors, in the open air. After eating the chestnuts, people paint their faces with ash.

### SAN MARTIN'S DAY

Killing pigs is really traditional in the rural areas of Galicia. November is the month when the pigs which have been carefully well cared during the previous months, are killed.

People who kill pigs for food normally invite their neighbours and friends to help with the different tasks to be done, and afterwards there's a meal full of pork meat, wine and a kind of crêpes made with some pork blood.

It's also celebrated in other towns and villages all over Spain.

