

Easter Monday (Pasquetta)

1. **A brief history of the holiday:** Easter Monday, also known as Pasquetta (Little Easter) in Italy, is a public holiday celebrated the day after Easter Sunday.

- **Origins:** The exact origins of **Pasquetta** celebrations remain unclear. Some believe it ties back to ancient fertility rites and springtime celebrations.
- **Celebration:** It's a day for families and friends to gather, enjoy a picnic outdoors, and continue the Easter festivities in a more relaxed setting.
- **Commemoration:** It doesn't commemorate any specific person, but rather the continuation of Easter joy and the renewal of spring.
- **Famous People:** Not directly connected to any specific famous person.

2. **National:** Pasquetta is a national holiday celebrated throughout Italy.

3. How it's Celebrated:

- Focuses on spending time outdoors with family and friends.
- Large picnics are common, often featuring leftovers from the Easter Sunday feast or traditional dishes like cheese, cured meats, bread, and seasonal vegetables.
- Depending on the region, there might be folk music, dancing, or traditional games.

4. Special Customs:

- **"Visita ai Sepolcri"** (Visiting the Sepulchres) - In some southern regions, people visit elaborately decorated church altars representing Christ's tomb on Easter Monday.
- Flying kites - A tradition in some areas, particularly southern Italy.
- Easter egg hunts - Though less common than in North America, egg hunts are gaining popularity for children.

5. Special Foods:

- **"Casatiello"** - A savory bread pie filled with cheese, meats, and eggs.
- **"Pizza di Pasqua"** - Sweet Easter bread with a regional flair (variations include ricotta cheese and candied fruit fillings).
- **Frittata** - Italian omelet, often filled with leftover vegetables and meats.
- **Colomba Pasquale** - Dove-shaped sweet bread.
- **Agnello** Lamb dishes: Roasted lamb or lamb sausage may be featured in some regions.

6. Specific Recipes:

7. Greetings and Vocabulary:

- **"Buona Pasquetta!"** (Happy Easter Monday!) The name "Pasquetta" comes from the Latin "Pascha," meaning Easter.
- **"Pasquetta"** - (Easter Monday)
- **"Gita fuori porta"** (Outing to the countryside) - A common term for Pasquetta picnics. Many Italians escape the city for day trips to scenic locations.
- **"Scampagnata"** (picnic): A large festive meal enjoyed outdoors is central to the celebration.

8. Personal Connection:

This is a public holiday, so it's likely many Italian families celebrate it in some way. Whether traditions are carried over by immigrant families depends on individual practices.

9. Interesting Information:

The tradition of picnics is linked to the spring weather and the desire to be outdoors after Easter Sunday celebrations.

10. Ideas for your Lodges:

- Organize a Pasquetta picnic with Italian-themed food and drinks. (can be potluck style).
- Host a cooking class featuring traditional Pasquetta dishes.
- Play Italian folk music and have a dance lesson featuring traditional dances from specific regions.
- Organize an Easter egg decorating competition. Then hold an Easter egg hunt with a twist - use decorated plastic eggs filled with Italian candy or small Italian trinkets.
- Offer an Italian language lesson focused on vocabulary related to Easter and Pasquetta traditions.
- Screen an Italian movie set during the Easter season with subtitles.
- Create a display showcasing traditional Pasquetta foods and decorations from different regions of Italy.
- Have a kite-flying activity (weather permitting).

These are just a few ideas to get you started. Tailor the activities to the interests and age groups of your lodge members!

*Information enhanced with the use of Google's AI program, Gemini