

# 9 Tips for a Last-Minute Russian New Year's Celebration

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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With the New Year only hours away you'd better make sure you're well prepared.

Here's a list of 9 tips to guide you through those last stressful hours of last-minute preparations before you can say "S nastupayushim!"

**1. Be generous.**



*Pascal Dumont / For MT*

New Year's Eve is the ultimate occasion for giving gifts in Russia so forget about last year's resolve to limit your spending. Most Russians skip Christmas, a legacy of the secularization of certain holidays under Soviet rule, but Father Frost is just as generous as Santa.



*Pascal Dumont / For MT*

Traditional gifts are sweets, chocolates, champagne, or keep an eye out for unexpected bargains.

## **2. Stock up on fireworks.**



*Pascal Dumont / For MT*

Ring in the New Year with a bang and get yourself some pyrotechnics, preferably ones that are illegal elsewhere (taking the necessary safety precautions, of course!)

## **3. More is more when it comes to mandarins.**



*Pascal Dumont / For MT*

Mandarins are a must on any New Year's dinner table, plus they'll also give you a much-needed Vitamin C boost to help you recover from your hangover the next day (see tip 5 below).

#### **4. Meet the New Year with meat.**



*Pascal Dumont / For MT*

For most Russians, no New Year's dinner is complete without a meat dish, preferably roast duck.

#### **5. This is not the night to stay sober.**



*Pascal Dumont / For MT*

Prepare some toasts ahead of time (there will be many) and say yes to the bottle.



*Pascal Dumont / For MT*

**6. You can have your cake and eat it too.**



*Pascal Dumont / For MT*

Take advantage of the fact that New Year's resolutions don't count before midnight and stock up on calories. You'll need them to get through the harsh Russian winter.

## 7. Pickle wisely.



*Pascal Dumont / For MT*

They might not make your mouth water right now, but after a couple of drinks you'll feel good about eating something akin to a vegetable.

## 8. Red caviar.



*Pascal Dumont / For MT*

How many of your foreign friends get to say they spent New Year's "drinking champagne and eating caviar"?

## 9. They look like Christmas trees...



*Pascal Dumont / For MT*

But Russians will tell you they are actually New Year trees.



*Pascal Dumont / For MT*

Or face the fact that your tree will never be able to compete with the pros and head to the nearest mall.

Happy 2014!

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