

ZIPLINE

2020 HOLIDAY EDITION

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Welcome to our special Holiday Issue of the zipLINE! We hope that this issue finds you and yours safe and well. I am a huge fan of traditions year round—but especially around the holidays. Seasonal traditions are an important part of building a strong bond between our family, friends, and community. They are a wonderful way to anchor us to each other, providing a sense of unity and belonging. I hope you find these articles entertaining, light-hearted, and filled with an intrinsic spirit of gratitude. In this issue, we surveyed our team and asked them to discuss their holiday traditions. I hope you enjoy what they had to share.

I want to thank our customer partners for their continued loyalty. Thank you also to the entire AccuZIP Team. They always go above and beyond to support our customer partners, especially this year.

On behalf of myself and our entire team, we wish you a safe holiday season and a prosperous 2021. Whatever the New Year brings, one thing is for sure, AccuZIP will be there for you. That is a tradition you can count on.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristen McKiernan'.

Kristen McKiernan, President



FOOD & WINE

THE PERFECT PAIRING



The Golden State stretches nearly 800 miles tall. Each region within its bounds has different terrain, climates, landmarks, and things to offer. We are proud to have an office on the West Coast nearly equidistant between San Francisco and Los Angeles, away from the fast-paced nature of the state's urban cities where sleepy beach towns are joined by tight-knit communities. There is one more part that makes this area shine – our vineyards and wineries. Our Central Coast California office is located between the Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo wine regions. Here the vintners have long been dedicated to crafting award-winning wines with hospitality that is second to none.

These different wines are just as unique as California itself. The characteristics are created in three main ways. First, the variety. The type of grape used to make the wine will bring some of its own personality to the table. A Pinot Noir will be a lot lighter than a bold Cabernet Sauvignon. The growing environment also plays a large role – from climate to soil. Vines planted in cooler temperatures may produce earthy wines, while warmer temperature wines will be fruit-forward. The last factor may be the biggest – the winemaker. Countless decisions are made for each wine, and the winemaker's personal touch makes each release unique.

Now, there's one final way to play with the taste of your wine, and it's your job! Pairing wines with food is a fun way to bring out hidden flavors you couldn't taste before. Keep in mind that white wines pair best with light meats like chicken and fish, while red wines pair best with red meat. You want to have the wine taste more acidic than the dish, and the wine should taste sweeter than the food. There are countless other rules for wine pairings, but get creative and see what speaks to you. You'll find we curated two of our favorite recipes with their perfect pairings for you to enjoy on the next page.



BUTTERNUT SQUASH RISOTTO

7C	Low-Sodium Chicken Broth	3	Minced Garlic Cloves
1T	Extra-Virgin Olive Oil	2C	Arborio Rice
1	Small Chopped Onion	1/2C	White Wine
2T	Butter, Divided	1C	Grated Parmesan
4C	Cubed Butternut Squash	2T	Freshly Chopped Sage

01. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, bring chicken broth to a simmer. Reduce heat to low.

02. In a large pot or Dutch oven, heat oil. Add onion and cook, stirring often, until beginning to soften, about 5 minutes. Stir in squash, 1 tablespoon butter and garlic. Cook until the squash is beginning to color around edges and then soft, about 6 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

03. Stir in remaining tablespoon butter arborio rice, stirring quickly. Cook until the grains are well-coated and smell slightly toasty, about 2 minutes. Add the wine and cook until the wine has mostly absorbed.

04. Add about 1 cup hot broth. Stirring often, cook until the rice has mostly absorbed liquid. Add remaining broth about 1 cup at a time, continuing to allow the rice to absorb each addition before adding more.

05. Stir often and cook until squash is tender and risotto is al dente and creamy, not mushy, about 25 minutes. Stir in Parmesan and sage, then season with salt and pepper before serving.

Pair with Chardonnay & Enjoy!

RECIPE & PHOTO BY DELISH



HOLIDAY ROASTED RIBEYE

1	2" Thick Bone-In Ribeye Steak	3	Smashed Garlic Cloves
-	Kosher Salt	2-3	Sprigs Fresh Thyme
-	Ground Black Pepper	2-3	Sprigs Fresh Rosemary
1T	Extra-Virgin Olive Oil	-	Flaky Sea Salt
2T	Unsalted Butter		

01. On a plate, season steak generously with salt and pepper. Let sit up to 30 minutes to let steak come to room temperature.

02. In a large cast-iron skillet over medium high, heat oil until very hot. Add steak and cook until a dark crust forms on the bottom side, about 6 to 7 minutes.

03. Flip the steak and cook, undisturbed, 6 minutes more.

04. Reduce heat to medium low and add butter, garlic, thyme, and rosemary. Continue cooking, using a spoon to baste the steak with the butter in the bottom of the pan and flipping the steak halfway through, until steak is medium-rare (about 120°), about 5 minutes more.

05. Remove steak to a cutting board and let rest 10 minutes before slicing. Sprinkle with flaky sea salt before serving.

Pair with Cabernet Sauvignon & Enjoy!

RECIPE BY DELISH

WINTER WELLNESS



BY KELSEY HAZELTON

SALES SUPPORT ASSISTANT

The holiday season is upon us! I love this time of year and all the festivities it entails! However, with the season also comes hectic schedules. As we work to accommodate others during the hustle and bustle, we tend to neglect ourselves and our wellness. I am excited to share with you my top five tips to navigate the holidays and plan your events with less stress. They are sure to put your mind at ease and help you stay healthy and organized through the holiday festivities!

01. THE RACE IS ON Non-profits look for extra help during the holiday season. Turkey Trots and Reindeer Runs raise funds for them while helping us stay active. You can choose to walk or run in a 5K or 10K race. Participants often embrace the spirit by dressing up in creative costumes sure to put a smile on your face. You will feel encouraged for the holidays after coming together as a community to help these organizations in need.

02. ENJOY HEALTHY SNACKS It's no secret that holiday parties are full of delicious yet indulgent food. When I plan a holiday gathering, I create a spread of meat, vegetables, fruits, cheese, and nuts. This gives guests healthy options to choose from, so your guests will be less inclined to overindulge during the meal. Get creative with the design of the spread! Add some pine branches or ornaments to make it festive.

03. HAVE A GAME PLAN Tackling the grocery store in preparation for your party can be intimidating. During the holidays, the aisles are full of sweets and treats. To avoid the temptation, eat a healthy snack before to help ensure impulse buys won't tempt you. Snacks like trail mix or cheese sticks give a protein boost to keep my energy up and hunger away. Also, don't forget to make a shopping list. This will help you resist the treats while making sure you don't forget something you need!

04. GET CREATIVE WHILE GETTING ACTIVE I challenge myself to find creative ways to stay active, especially during the holidays when we are eating more than usual. Instead of searching for the closest parking spot, I take the last one to add some extra steps. I also opt for the stairs over the elevator. These little changes make me exercise while knocking out my holiday shopping. The extra endorphins also help me to stay positive and embrace the holiday spirit.

05. MAKE YOUR LIST & CHECK IT TWICE I encourage you to make your list early and check it often! I have helped plan AccuZIP holiday parties for the past four years. The first step is to decide what we want the party to entail in early November. Yes, early November! After sending out invitations and receiving RSVPs, I carefully go through our plan and add everything I need to my shopping list. Before I head to the store, I review the list once again to make sure nothing has been forgotten. I also bring our guest list to the store, so I can get a gift for everyone. Make sure to grab a few extra gifts in case someone arrives that didn't RSVP. This tip has saved me a time or two! The final step in holiday party planning is to make it festive! Embrace the tinsel, holly, and centerpieces. Then, sit back, pop the champagne and enjoy the festivities with your guests!



SPREADING CHEER

The United States Postal Service
is Brightening the Season

BY USPS

Do you add festive cheer to your cards and letters with seasonal postage? The United States Postal Service® works to cheer up mail with Forever Stamps made for festive holidays such as Valentine's Day and Halloween. They sure don't stop there, though. The U.S. Postal Service brings the magic of the holidays to children everywhere by lending a helping hand to the hard workers of the North Pole! Grab a cup of cocoa to get in the holiday mindset and learn more about these heart-warming programs.

USPS Operation Santa® Legacy Program

This year marks the 108th year of the USPS Operation Santa® program. Since 1912, postal employees and customers have helped children experience the magic of the holidays by adopting their letters to Santa. In early December, customers wanting to browse through and adopt letters in person can do so in New York City and Chicago. Please go to usps.com/holidaynews for additional information.

USPS Operation Santa® Digital Program

In 2017, USPS Operation Santa went digital in a pilot program in New York City. Only customers in NYC could adopt letters. In 2018, the program expanded to seven cities in a volume test. The Digital program enables customers to go online at USPSOperationSanta.com beginning mid-November; go through a short registration and ID verification process; then, browse and adopt letters written to Santa from their computers.

This year, the program is expanding to 17 cities around the country in a larger volume test. Letters written to Santa from the following cities will populate the USPSOperationSanta.com website: Austin, TX, Baltimore, MD, Boston, MA, Chicago, IL, Cleveland OH, Denver CO, Grand Rapids MI, Hatteras Island, NC, Los Angeles CA, New York NY, Ocracoke Island, NC, Orlando FL, Philadelphia PA, Phoenix AZ, Sacramento CA, San Juan PR, and Washington DC.

Once the letter is adopted, it is sent via email to the customer with a QR code. Once the customer selects a gift, he or she returns to the Post Office. The QR code is then attached to the gift package and is presented to a clerk at any of the 19,000+ RSS-capable retail offices. These offices are identified on usps.com/locator as "Label Broker" locations. The clerk scans the QR code, the customer pays postage, and then the clerk prints the shipping label and affixes it to the box without the customer seeing the destination.

Send a Letter to Santa

In addition to allowing letters to Santa to flow seamlessly for redaction, giving Santa an official postal address allows for a more efficient mail processing operation. Use Santa Claus, 123 Elf Road, North Pole, 88888.



Holiday Shipping **BLUEPRINT** BY USPS

The days have blended this year more than usual due to daily-routine changes courtesy of the pandemic. But now it's time to focus on happier times ahead over the next few weeks as the holidays get closer, and who isn't excited to do that? We've got the tips, tricks, and shipping deadlines so you can send cards and gifts to your loved ones with peace of mind.

2020 HOLIDAY SHIPPING DEADLINES*

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines for expected delivery by Dec. 25 to domestic addresses and Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/Diplomatic Post Office addresses

November 6th	APO/FPO/DPO all ZIP Codes USPS Retail Ground service
December 9th	APO/FPO/DPO ZIP Code 093 only Priority Mail and First-Class Mail
December 11th	APO/FPO/DPO all other ZIP Codes Priority Mail and First-Class Mail services
December 15th	USPS Retail Ground service
December 18th	APO/FPO/DPO except ZIP Code 093 USPS Priority Mail Express service
December 18th	First-Class Mail service including greeting cards
December 18th	First-class packages up to 15.99 ounces
December 19th	Priority Mail service
December 23rd	Priority Mail Express service

Additional news and information can be found at the
Postal Service Holiday Newsroom: usps.com/holidaynews.

**Not a guarantee, unless otherwise noted. Dates are for estimated delivery before Dec. 25. Actual delivery date may vary depending on origin, destination, Post Office acceptance date and time, and other conditions. Some restrictions apply. For Priority Mail Express shipments mailed Dec. 22 through Dec. 25, the money-back guarantee applies only if the shipment was not delivered, or delivery was not attempted, within two business days.*

VINTAGE CHARM

Holiday Stamps for Holiday Cheer

BY USPS

The Holiday Delights stamps use a palette of red, green and white to depict images inspired by vintage ornaments and Scandinavian folk art.

The Postal Service released the Holiday Delights, stamps that are inspired by folk art but with a modern graphic vibe, on Thursday, Sept. 24.

Illustrator Kirsten Ulve used a traditional palette of red, green and white, and channeled her love of Christmas, vintage ornaments and Scandinavian folk art to create unique digital illustrations of four holiday icons: a prancing reindeer with antlers; an ornament tied with a bow and ready to hang; a tree topped with a star; and a stocking holding a teddy bear and a sprig of holly.

Antonio Alcalá, a USPS art director, designed the Forever stamps, which are available in panes of 20 at Post Offices and at usps.com. Holiday Delights is one of several holiday stamp releases this year, along with Winter Scenes, Our Lady of Guápulo, Kwanzaa and Hanukkah.





STEP BACK IN TIME



The Great Dickens Christmas Fair

BY LARISSA BARRIOS

RECEPTIONIST AND
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

You're strolling down the street, passing brightly lit Victorian shops, kicking up bits of snow on the ground as you go. A couple dressed in coattails and a taffeta dress pass you on their way to a dance hall. Roasted chestnuts wafer in the air beckoning you to a shop serving cakes and puddings. Carolers sing sweet melodies of yuletide. You arrive at a crossroads where you see none other than Ebenezer Scrooge heckling anyone who says "Merry Christmas" with a "Bah Humbug." Here at The Great Dickens Christmas Fair, you'll find yourself in a perfect recreation of London pulled right from the pages of a Charles Dickens novel.

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair was founded by Ron and Phyllis Patterson in 1970. Originally just a holiday party for family and friends in the Hollywood Hills, the soiree moved locale to a vintage warehouse in San Francisco. The location has changed throughout the years, and it is currently held at the Cow Palace Arena Center running from the Friday after Thanksgiving to the weekend before Christmas.

With its wide array of colorful characters, the Fair offers an endless variety of entertainment. Interact with actors in the lanes or watch as they put on impromptu performances. See old Ebenezer Scrooge encounter the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet To Come. Dance at Fezziwigs Warehouse to waltzes, polkas, and reels. At the Prince Albert Crystal Palace Exhibition, watch a steam engine demonstration or listen to paleontology lectures. Most importantly, don't forget to visit the Father Christmas stage where children can watch toys come alive in the Toy Parade, giggle at the Punch and Judy Show, and even meet Father Christmas himself.

Nothing says Christmas like gift-giving. At the Dickens Fair, you'll find one-of-a-kind items for everyone on your list. Give that special someone a silhouette portrait of themselves or a loved one. Pick up a unique mug, bowl, or vase from Schulps Pottery and Knives that can be enjoyed all year long. Those who want to add a little Victorian flair to their wardrobe, stop by Madame Louise's Fashion Accessories for authentic hats, wool bonnets, purses, gloves, and hatpins. Many vendors offer handmade crafts, perfumes, soaps, jewelry, toys, and Christmas ornaments.

Although a great deal of focus is on maintaining a 19th Century London aesthetic, the most important goal is for all attendees to feel the joy and magic of Christmas. It's a special time of year that reminds us to cherish our loved ones. To spread cheer and goodwill to friends and strangers alike. To believe in magic and wonder even in the darkest of times. Like the ghosts from A Christmas Carol, The Great Dickens Christmas Fair encourages us to keep the spirit of Christmas in our hearts for the whole year.



HOLIDAY TRADITIONS — AND — MEMORIES

The holidays are on the horizon. This season is an opportunity for us to come together with our loved ones – whether in person or virtually. We look to this time as one to pause, slow down, and spend time with these people that matter most. Stories are shared of past times together, from childhood traditions to recollections of times with friends. Coming together in fellowship not only gives us a chance to reflect but an opportunity to create new memories to look back on in the years ahead. The days spent preparing in the kitchen, the meals spent together around a table, the evening spent playing with cousins as a child. These memories, old and new, are treasures we can hold close. This season is the perfect way to wrap up the year as we look forward to the new year ahead. We are excited to share some memories and traditions from our team members to get you in the holiday spirit. Enjoy!



STEVE BELMONTE
Chief Executive Officer

My father dressed up like Santa Claus each year for our children and grandchildren. When he passed away, I carried on his gift to us by dressing up each year. It was the most incredible feeling to keep that long-tradition going.

After 28 great years in the books, my hope for 2021 is simply looking forward to the beginning of this new chapter in my life with the strongest woman I know and love, my beautiful wife, Michele.

MICHELE BELMONTE
Human Resource Administrator

We cook a meal on Christmas Eve and Christmas Night, and the whole family lends a hand in the kitchen. It is awesome to see the kids' reactions when they see Steve dressed as Santa and receive their gift. They are almost petrified with wonder and are on their best behavior, no matter how many Christmas cookies they have eaten!



KRISTEN MCKIERNAN

President

Every New Year's Day morning, our family does the Polar Plunge! We put on our bathing suits and head to the beach, where we join a huge crowd of other brave plungers. Members of our city council countdown, and then the entire crowd runs into the freezing cold ocean water! It's a refreshingly fresh way to start the new year. Then, the kids get ice cream after, and the parents get coffee to warm us up!



JAMES LORD, CPA

Financial Controller

Now that our daughter has children of her own, we continue the Christmas Eve tradition of going out to a nice dinner instead of spending hours in the kitchen cooking. After dinner, we go to our daughter's home and do a holiday craft project with the kids, such as each of us making silly Santa hats. Glitter, puff paints, etc. — there are no limits. It is really fun, and we all look forward to it each year.



VINCENT MURDOCH

Customer Care Specialist

I would have to say the most memorable gift was a piece of video game memorabilia from my wife. She told me it was too expensive, but it turns out she bought it when it was first released. Once Christmas came, I was opening presents, and there it was! It's a jacket from one of my favorite game franchises, so I wear it as often as I can. It is still one of my favorite gifts!

TERRY CROUCH

Application Support Manager and
Associate Software Developer

Christmas cookies! All types — sugar, gingerbread, butter. The "Christmas cookie cooking tradition" lasts over a week, with every counter covered in different cookies. It was passed down from my mother to my wife, and now to our daughter.



SANDY GUNION

Acct. Administrator and Bookkeeper

My large family is very close, especially the cousins! Every Christmas Eve, we came together at my grandmother's home for a nice holiday meal. We played games and each got to open one present. It was so fun to get to open a present before Christmas morning when you are young!



KELSEY HAZELTON

Sales Support Assistant

Nearly each Christmas, my mom helped us make a photo gift for our grandparents that we paired with delicious candy. We were always so excited to have them open their gift. Now, I look around my granddad's home and see many of these photo gifts displayed that he still cherishes today.



BROCK BELMONTE

Customer Care Specialist and
Associate Software Developer

At the holidays each year, our family comes together in the living room and watches "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" by the fireplace.



“

The present is the past
rolled up for action, and the
past is the present unrolled
for understanding.

ARIEL DURANT

The Lessons of History

”

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you with the highest level of support.
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any questions or need for assistance.

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