

Hidden Footprints: Crypto-Jewish Passover Traditions in Modern Cuisine

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Abstract

This presentation explores how Crypto-Jewish communities across Latin America preserved key elements of Passover rituals through culinary adaptations developed in secrecy. From matzah substitutes made with cassava and corn to hidden versions of charoset and symbolic egg dishes like *huevos chaminados*, food became both a survival tool and a spiritual anchor. Through historical context, oral traditions, and contemporary interviews, this research uncovers how Jewish identity was quietly sustained across generations—sometimes unknowingly—within Latin American family kitchens. These culinary traces reveal not only the resilience of Crypto-Jewish life under persecution, but also how memory, tradition, and resistance continue to flavor our tables today.

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