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GREER & TAYLORS, SOUTH CAROLINA
Leaps of Growth in Town and Community

April 2025
www.GTmagazineSC.com

**Beautiful
Table Settings
For Spring**

*The Story
Of Easter*

**Greek
Easter Bread
With Red Eggs**

**Easter Bunny
Lunch**

*Fabergé
Eggs*





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Town and Community*

ARTICLES:

- 4 Fabergé Eggs: A Legendary Easter Tradition
- 5 Fabergé Eggs continued
- 7 Beautiful Table Setting Ideas For Spring
- 8 Travelers Rest Farmers Market - Celebrating 10 Years
- 8 Spring Vendor Market
- 10 The Story of Easter
- 11 Greek Easter Bread With Red Eggs
- 12 Easter - Early Customs and Traditions
- 13 How to Marbleize Easter Eggs
- 14 Creamy Chicken Casserole - RECIPE
- 15 Neighborhood Connections – Greer Farmers Market

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FRONT COVER FEATURE

Little Reminders Easter Past and Present!

Cover Photo: www.antiquefarmhouse.com

Like every holiday, Easter is full of heartwarming memories and traditional fun to revisit each year. If you enjoy looking through old family albums, especially the albums at your grandparents house, you will notice a little difference in our Easter attire today than back in 1950. But the celebration continues today with the newest styles of clothing, an assortment of basket designs, and our homes are adorned with Spring and Easter decor using both present day and vintage items. New traditions are established with memories in the making for future little reminders of family history.

We all love a chocolate bunny, Peeps brand of marshmallow chicks, jelly beans, egg shaped cookies and colorful dyed eggs, but let's not forget about Easter morning services and easy meals to start in the slow cooker while away at church. Many families still celebrate with a special Easter brunch or family dinner, but today, there are more and more casual get-togethers that offer a new spin on classic holiday traditions.

When it comes to putting together Easter baskets, you can be as simple or as elaborate as you want to be. There are so many great ideas when it comes to filling each one with assorted toys and crafts, plus candy and cookie treats; maybe even a golden egg with treasure inside.

As it is with any holiday, we can create as much fun as we like and decorate as little or as much as we like, but there is one main reason why we celebrate Easter and it is what we all should hold dearest in our hearts. God sent His Son to be born a man in a humble manger, and then ultimately take our sins to the Cross and be crucified, conquering death and the grave.

Both, the bunny and Jesus, are tied to the Easter holiday, and they're both considered symbols of new life, but the links to one another end there. The celebration of Easter is a time of re-birth, but the true, most important meaning behind this historical event and who it's truly about is – Jesus.

" . . . without Christmas there would be no Easter, and without Easter, Christmas would be irrelevant. What does Easter mean to me? Everything!" – **Will Graham**

Featured on the cover of this month's GT Magazine is a rustic ceramic rabbit on display under a glass dome along with other vintage items, all of which have an aged appeal that is absolutely loved. Rabbit figurines add charm and character to your vintage-style decor.

Have a Happy Easter,
Shea & Bruce Schaefer
Publishers of GT Magazine



Fabergé Eggs: The World's Most Legendary Easter Tradition

Source: www.elledecor.com
 Written By: Parker Bowie Larson
 Photos: Courtesy of the Forbes Collection
 Layout & Design By: GT Magazine

The Gatchina Palace Egg, 1901

The Gatchina Palace egg is considered one of Fabergé's best compositions. Its gold shell is superbly enameled opalescent white over a moiré guilloché ground. This exquisite egg is divided vertically into six panels by tiny seed pearls and horizontally at its hinged center. The panels are decorated with pink ribbon-tied swags and roses, from which hang classical motifs and symbols of the arts and sciences. It opens to reveal a superbly rendered model of the Gatchina Palace in three colors of gold—yellow, red, and green."



The story of the imperial Fabergé Easter eggs is a fascinating one. It started in Russia in 1885 with what appeared to be an ordinary gift—a white enamel egg—but there was beauty hidden within. The egg opened to reveal a series of surprises: first, a solid gold yolk in the center, which opened to reveal a multicolored gold hen with ruby eyes, which then opened to a gold-and-diamond replica of the imperial crown, which itself contained a tiny ruby pendant suspended on a chain. The so-called Hen Egg was the beginning of a series of annual gifts from Czar Alexander III and, after his death, from his son, Nicholas II, to their wives up through 1916.

Czar Nicholas commissioned jeweler Peter Carl Fabergé to be the "goldsmith by special appointment to the imperial crown." Fabergé was given free rein in the eggs' designs. From a needlepoint motif to a delicate lattice, he did not hold back—not only was the outside of each an intricate work of art, but the insides were even more elaborate, with each containing a hidden surprise. Thus, the tradition of Easter eggs bearing gifts was born.

The legend drew a following of collectors and historians far and wide. In America, one of the most extensive collections is that of Lillian Thomas Pratt, who amassed five eggs in the 1930s, paying as much as \$16,500 for just one (when the most expensive Ford motorcar cost a little less than \$1,000). Upon her death in 1947, she bequeathed the collection to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

The Hen Egg, 1885



"The Hen Egg is particularly significant, as it was the first imperial Easter egg created by my great-grandfather, Peter Carl Fabergé, for Czar Alexander III to present to his wife, Empress Maria Feodorovna, in 1885," Fabergé says. "The czar himself had a hand in the design as he requested that the final surprise 'be a small pendant egg of some precious stone,' and it was so well received that it paved the way for further commissions from the imperial family and others with a taste for exquisite jewels and objets."

The Renaissance Egg, 1894



"This was to be the last egg commissioned by Alexander III before Nicholas II took over the Easter tradition of gifting Fabergé eggs to his wife and mother every year," explains Josina von dem Bussche-Kessel, the global sales director of Fabergé. "This piece is particularly intricate and delicate, with an exceptionally gentle mixture of materials and colors featuring Fabergé's signature detailing. The egg was made of white agate and covered with a dainty trellis connecting individual flowers set with rubies, diamonds, and pearls. On either side of the egg is a lion's mask with gold swing handles. Sadly, the egg's surprise was lost, but it is believed to have featured pearls."

The Rosebud Egg, 1895



"After the untimely death of Alexander III, Nicholas continued the important relationship with the House of Fabergé and commissioned his first egg in 1895," von dem Bussche-Kessel says. "The Rosebud Egg, widely acknowledged as predominantly honoring the new Empress Alexandra Feodorovna and her love of roses, features a beautiful yellow enamel rose on the inside—yellow roses were most precious in her native Germany at the time. The theme is also regarded as a romantic tribute to the couple's status as newlyweds, especially symbolized in the egg's red-enamel outer 'shell' and Cupid's arrow set with rose-cut diamonds. At the top there was also a small portrait of Nicholas II. There were said to be two smaller surprises inside the yellow rosebud—a small crown and a ruby drop—but these have been lost since the Russian Revolution."

The Coronation Egg, 1897



"This egg is arguably one of the most recognized and loved Fabergé imperial eggs, most likely because of its reference to the ultimate imperial moment—Nicholas II's coronation," von dem Bussche-Kessel says. "The detail and functionality of Fabergé's craftsmanship in this piece is unparalleled, featuring a miniature copy of the imperial coach as the egg's surprise, complete with moving wheels, opening doors, and even a miniature folding step chair. It took the House of Fabergé more than 15 months to make the egg and required the highest level of technical as well as artistic excellence. Perfectly showcasing Fabergé's world-renowned artistry using guilloché enameling—a technique still used by Fabergé today—the egg mesmerizes with its deep yellow color and captivating starburst engraving."

Lilies of the Valley Egg, 1898

"Both Peter Carl Fabergé and Empress Maria Feodorovna loved flowers," Fabergé says. "You can almost smell the lilies as you look at this egg, but these exquisite little flower heads are created from pearls and rose-cut diamonds, with leaves of green enamel on gold." As for the surprise: "There is a single pearl button on the side of this pink guilloché-enameled egg—when pressed, the crown rises to reveal three miniature portraits of Czar Nicholas II and his daughters, Olga and Tatiana."



The Rose Trellis Egg, 1907

"This egg commemorates the birth of the long-awaited Czarevitch Alexei Nikolaevich in 1904," Andrew says. "The exterior is a joy to behold—it features rose-cut diamond trellises overlaying a translucent green-enamel shell. This delicate design is enhanced by a pink rose within each lattice, surrounded by gold vines and minuscule emerald-green leaves. Alas, the surprise is missing. According to the original Fabergé invoice, it was 'a diamond necklace with a medallion miniature of His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Czarevitch Alexei Nikolaevich.' In a photograph of the empress taken in June 1908, she is wearing a similar necklace, which could well be the missing surprise. Let us hope that one day it is found."



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beautiful
table
setting
ideas for

Spring

Source: www.balsamhill.com Layout & Design: GT Magazine



Spring is a lovely season full of new beginnings and fresh blooms, so adding flowers and pastel colors to your table decorations is a great way to celebrate the season.

Use a mix of fresh flowers in assorted shades of pink, yellow and lavender with a touch of greenery to create a beautiful centerpiece for your table. Create a flower arrangement in a rectangular pot to be the center of attention and the highlight of your table's decor.

Solid colored chargers topped with mix matched designs of dinner and salad plates can add character to any table setting. By adding more color and texture to your setting it will put on a winning performance for your guests!

Choose table linens in soft, light and pretty colors, to create a serene and peaceful spring-like ambiance.

Add a touch of warmth and light to your table with decorative candles. You can choose candles in spring colors, or keep it simple with white candles. Battery-operated candles will also work well with your setting.

Create an Interesting Theme

● French Countryside

Sip mimosas in style with a floral garland table runner featuring purple cattails and white lilacs, evoking the rustic elegance of France in the springtime. Complement your centerpiece with crystal decanters, rustic wooden cheeseboards, and vintage white crockery.

● Vintage Chic

Go to your local thrift store and hunt down interesting treasures you can use to add character to your spring table settings. Pitchers, soup tureens, dainty tea sets, candlesticks, and unique vases can make charming conversation pieces alongside seasonal flowers, potted greenery, crocheted tablecloths and embroidered table runners.

● Romantic Rose

Perfect for Easter and Mother's Day brunches, garlands featuring roses in full bloom evoke romance and elegance. Pair with crystal candlesticks, burnished brass tapers, and crisp white or cream table linen. Bring out your most elegant dishes to complete the look.

● Coastal Elegance

Embrace the bright hues of sky, sand, and sea with flowers in varying shades of blue, cream, and white. Set out glass jars and vases filled with seashells or ocean-themed ornaments. Anchor candles in clear receptacles filled with sand. A burlap table runner completes this nautical theme nicely.

● Enchanted Garden

Sprinkle a little magic into your outdoor spring table setting. Create a fairy garden feel with a floral garland table runner, rustic accessories, and the gentle glow of LED candles. Scatter miniature woodland creature figurines or artificial butterfly décor among the foliage. Add string lights to your outdoor area to enhance the fairy-like ambience of your setup as dusk sets in.

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Travelers Rest Farmers Market is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization created to provide a forum for the exchange of local products and goods, as well as educational and cultural activities for increasing knowledge about, appreciation for, and participation in the local production of natural products, while also fostering a sense of community among the residents and visitors of the Travelers Rest area.

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For Vendor Inquiries Contact
 Kendall Scruggs, owner of Memphis Fresh

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The Story of Easter is the true story of Jesus Christ's resurrection, which is celebrated as a Christian holiday. The Easter story begins with Jesus being arrested by the Jewish leaders, who accused him of blasphemy and inciting rebellion against the Roman Empire. He was sentenced to death by crucifixion, and his body was placed in a tomb, wrapped in a linen cloth.

On the preparation day, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy disciple of Jesus, asked Pilate for permission to take Jesus' body down from the cross and bury him according to Jewish burial customs. Pilate granted Joseph's request, and he and Nicodemus, another follower of Jesus, prepared Jesus' body for burial. They wrapped Jesus' body in a linen cloth and placed him in a tomb hewn from the rock. The entrance to the tomb was sealed with a large stone, and guards were stationed there to prevent anyone from stealing the body.

However, something miraculous happened on the third day, in the evening at sunset. The stone was rolled away, and the tomb was found empty. Mary Magdalene and other women who had come to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with spices saw that the body was gone.

Suddenly, two men in dazzling white robes appeared to the women and said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified, and on the third day be raised again.'" (Luke 24:5-7)

The women were filled with awe and amazement and ran to tell the disciples what they had seen. Peter and John ran to the tomb to see

for themselves, and found the linen cloth lying there, but no body to be found. Later, Jesus appeared to his disciples, and they were overjoyed to see that he was alive.

The biblical meaning of Easter is that it symbolizes the victory of life over death, good over evil, and love over hate. It is a time of hope, renewal, and rebirth. The Easter story shows us that even in the darkest times, there is always hope and faith in God can conquer any obstacle.

However, the religious leaders of the time refused to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead, and they continued persecuting his followers. Despite the overwhelming evidence of Jesus' resurrection, they clung stubbornly to their disbelief.

The white robe that the angels wore when they appeared to the women symbolizes purity and innocence, while the scarlet robe that Jesus was forced to wear before his crucifixion represents the bloodshed and suffering that he endured for our sins.

The sick people who came to Jesus for healing during his ministry symbolize our need for spiritual healing and redemption. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate act of love, and it shows us the true meaning of forgiveness and mercy.

The Easter story is a powerful reminder of the love that God has for us and the sacrifice that Jesus made for our salvation. It teaches us that even in the darkest of times, we can find hope and renewal through faith in God. As we celebrate this holy day, let us remember the true meaning of Easter and the message of love and hope that it brings to us all.

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Greek Easter Bread With Red Eggs

(Lambropsomo)

Lambropsomo is the traditional Greek Easter bread. Red eggs are tucked into the dough to symbolize the blood of Jesus Christ. The bread is often braided with three strings of dough that symbolize the Holy Trinity. This sweet, spiced bread is traditionally prepared with an essence makhlep, or is flavored with mastic. It tastes delicious with a nice crust and a tender crumb. Just perfect to eat with lamb.

Source: www.almanac.com, Photo Credit: Brent Hofacker, Layout and Design: GT Magazine

Ingredients:

- 2 packets (4-1/2 teaspoons) dry yeast**
- 1/2 cup warm water**
- 1 cup warm milk**
- 1/2 cup butter, melted**
- 2 teaspoons salt**
- 2 tablespoons anise extract**
- 3 eggs, beaten**
- 1-1/2 cups sugar**
- 9 cups flour**
- 2 hard-boiled eggs, dyed red (optional)**
- melted butter**

Instructions:

In a bowl, combine yeast, water, milk, butter, and salt. Add anise extract, beaten eggs, and sugar. Stir in flour, 3 cups at a time. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface. Knead for 10 minutes or until smooth.

Put the dough into a large bowl coated with cooking spray, turning once, and cover with a damp towel. Allow to rise until doubled in bulk, about 2 hours. (Gently press 2 fingers into the dough. If indentation remains, the dough has risen enough.) Preheat oven to 350°.

At this point, you can either punch down and place in 2 greased 9-inch round pans, reserving just enough dough to form a cross on top of each loaf. Place a red egg in the center of each loaf (if using) and form a cross over it. Let rise for 1 hour.

Divide dough into three equal portions, rolling each portion into a long rope. Place ropes lengthwise on a baking sheet coated with cooking spray (do not stretch); pinch ends together at one end to seal. Loosely braid ropes together on the baking sheet; pinch loose ends to seal. Lightly coat the dough with cooking spray. Tucked dyed eggs into the braid; they will cook as the bread cooks.

Let rise 1 hour, then bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove from pans immediately and brush with butter.



Easter Early Customs and Traditions

Easter Sunday (also known as Resurrection Sunday) is the most important day of the year for Christians. It is the celebration of Jesus being resurrected from the dead.

The Easter Bunny legend began in Germany

The story of rabbits bringing eggs doesn't make logical sense, but every year children rush to see what treats this mythical creature has left for them. Just like Santa Claus has no Christian significance to Christmas, the Easter Bunny also has no real connection to this holy day.

The origin of the Easter Bunny dates back hundreds of years, beginning in pre-Christian Germany. The hare was said to be the symbol of Eostre, the Pagan Goddess of Spring and Fertility.

As Christianity spread across Europe, Pagan traditions were blended with Christian holidays. The Easter Bunny laid a nest of colorful eggs for children who were well-behaved on Easter Sunday.

The UK's first chocolate egg was produced in Bristol in 1873

It was during the 19th century that the Fry family of Bristol ran the largest chocolate factory in the world and produced the first chocolate egg, in 1873. Two years later in 1875 Cadbury's make their first Easter egg.

More than 1.5 million Cadbury Creme Eggs are produced every day

Cadbury's makes 500 million Creme Eggs every year! If you piled them on top of each other, it would be ten times higher than Mount Everest. The Birmingham factory produces 1.5 million Creme Eggs every day, and the Creme Egg is the most popular egg-shaped chocolate in the world.

Painting eggs originated from a Ukrainian tradition

For countless generations, Ukrainians have been decorating eggs. This traditional act of pysanka ("pih-sahn-kah") is made by using wax and dyes, but this colorful custom didn't take off until Ukrainian immigrants came to the United States.

Written by Georgina McEvoy-Jones
Photos by: Sean Svadilfari
Layout and design by: GT Magazine



The world's largest Easter egg weighs in at 5,000 lbs

Standing 31ft tall and 18ft wide is the world's largest Easter egg. Found in Vegreville, Alberta, Canada, the egg weighs a hefty 5000 lbs and took 12,000 hours to complete.

Named the Vegreville Pysanka, the world's largest Easter egg is made from 3500 pieces of aluminium.

Pretzels used to be associated with Easter

Did you know that pretzels are also an Easter snack? Pretzels are associated with Easter because the twists resemble arms crossing in prayer. From the 1950s, it was tradition for Germans to eat a pretzel and a hard-boiled egg for dinner on Good Friday.

The Faberge Egg – possibly the world's most expensive egg

A Faberge egg sold at Christie's in London for £9 million, breaking Faberge records. The enamelled egg contains a multi-colored cockerel which at every hour pops out of the egg and flaps his wings, before nodding his head three times. The egg was made by Karl Fabergé in St Petersburg in 1902.

In Germany, it is illegal to dance on Good Friday

Starting with Good Friday, it is illegal to dance in public in the majority of states in Germany. Even Europe's clubbing capital, Berlin, becomes a dance-free zone out of respect for the religious day.

In Baden-Württemberg, music is allowed to be played but dancing is not allowed. In Bavaria, if you are caught playing music of any kind in a bar, you could be fined up to 10,000 euros.

This ban is out of respect for Christians, who mourn the death of Jesus on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, and in Germany, these days are considered to be holidays of silence.



Turn ordinary eggs into beautiful, marbled masterpieces! The process is simple and easy to do!

Step 1: Gather Ingredients

Newspaper to cover countertops

Optional crayon for writing on eggs before dying

Hard-boiled eggs dyed a light shade

FOR EACH MARBLE BATH:

9-inch pie plate (or other low shallow bowl)

2 cups warm water

(or enough to have 1/2-inch of water in the bowl)

1 tablespoon distilled white vinegar

15-20 drops food coloring (Neon colors are wonderful)

1 tablespoon olive oil

Step 2: Make Marbleizing Bath

Let your dyed eggs dry on paper towels while you prepare marbleizing baths. Keep the base shades light so they can take on the darker colors when marbleizing.

Pour warm water into a pie plate. Add the distilled white vinegar and stir to combine. Add 15-20 drops of food coloring and stir well. If you want a deeper color, add more drops. Add 1 tablespoon olive oil and use a fork to disperse the oil over the water. The oil sits on the surface in different spots and creates the marbled effect.

Take an egg and set it in the pie plate, using your fingers (gloved if worried about stains), or a fork, quickly roll the egg around, making sure to move it through the oil patches, and all around the plate.

Step 3: Try Different Colors

Try various color combinations. Vary the base tints and the swirls to achieve contrasts both striking and subtle.

For this batch, use 10 drops purple food coloring, and 10 drops pink. Since the ingredients for this are fairly cheap, let your imagination run wild, this is also a great way to pull out a color wheel and teach your children how to mix colors and watch what happens!

Don't go too crazy, or you'll probably end up with a lot of brownish eggs. Stick with one or two colors in the marbleizing bath, and drop in different colors of dyed eggs. You can even try to put the eggs in multiple marbleizing baths.

Step 4: Enjoy Your Eggs

Remove each egg and dry it well with a paper towel, wiping off the excess oil, let the eggs dry on a double stack of paper towels about 30 minutes.

Show off your eggs in a pretty display, just remember not to keep them out of the fridge longer than 2 hours at a time. The sheen the oil gives each egg is beautiful.



A Satisfying, Kid Friendly Casserole For Easter Lunch

Creamy Chicken Casserole

Recipe by: Kate, www.katesbestrecipes.com

Layout and Design by GT Magazine

Ingredients

- 1/2 pound whole wheat pasta like penne or shells
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more for seasoning
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 yellow or white onion small dice
- 4 cups chopped kale
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1/2 teaspoon dried sage
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 4 ounces Fontina shredded
- 4 ounces shredded Parmesan, divided

- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1/2 cup panko

Instructions

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook pasta for 3 minutes short of al dente, drain pasta.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook pasta for 3 minutes short of al dente, drain pasta.

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Sauté onion until softened, about 5 minutes. Add kale and cook until wilted, about 5 minutes. Add peas and cook for 2 minutes.

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Sauté onion until softened, about 5 minutes. Add kale and cook until wilted, about 5 minutes. Add peas and cook for 2 minutes.

Lower heat to medium-low and add cream, measured 3/4 cup Fontina and is melted.

Lower heat to medium-low and add cream, measured 3/4 cup Fontina and is melted.

then turn off the heat.

Taste to make sure it is to your liking. Add a side of bread!

Top with Parmesan in a casserole. Add a side of bread!

Easter Bunny Lunch!



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