RELAX LANG MOM · HOLIDAY KITCHEN GUIDE

The Stress-Free Noche Buena Planner

Prep ahead, cook calm, and actually sit down to enjoy Christmas Eve with your family.

PRINTABLE 2-PAGE GUIDE

relaxlangmom.com

1 Your Noche Buena Menu Builder

Pick 1–2 dishes per category (skip the pressure of cooking 10 ulam!). Check "Make Ahead" for anything you can marinate, bake, or chill before Dec 24.

COURSE & PINOY IDEAS	OUR FAMILY'S DISH(ES)	PREP TIMING	COOK / POTLUCK
Centerpiece / Main Air-fryer lechon belly, roast chicken, beef morcon, holiday ham		☐ Make ahead ☐ Dec 24	
Pasta, Noodles or Rice Baked mac, creamy carbonara, pancit malabon, garlic java rice		☐ Make ahead ☐ Dec 24	
Salad, Soup or Side Chicken macaroni salad, pomelo salad, lumpiang shanghai, pandesal		☐ Make ahead ☐ Dec 24	
Dessert & Kakanin Coffee jelly, mango graham, cathedral jelly, cassava cake, queso de bola		☐ Make ahead ☐ Buy / Order	
Drinks & Extras Tsokolate, iced calamansi, wine, sago't gulaman, dipping sauces		☐ Chill ahead ☐ Dec 24	

2 The 3-Day Make-Ahead Countdown

The secret to a calm Dec 24 is moving 70% of the work to Dec 22–23 so Christmas Eve is just roasting, reheating, and plating.

DEC 22 · TWO DAYS BEFORE

Shop, Defrost & Marinate

- ☐ Finish wet market & grocery run early (beat the Dec 23–24 rush).
- ☐ Move frozen meats/ham to the chiller to thaw safely overnight.
- ☐ Marinate pork belly, chicken, or beef; roll lumpia and freeze on a tray.
- ☐ Clear one full shelf in the ref for tomorrow's chilled desserts.
- ☐ Check LPG tank / air fryer / oven trays & foil stock.

DEC 23 · THE DAY BEFORE

Desserts, Sauces & Chop

- ☐ Make chilled desserts (coffee jelly, mango graham, fruit/macaroni salad).
- ☐ Cook pasta sauces, gravy, or braised dishes (they taste better overnight!).
- ☐ Wash & chop aromatics (garlic, onions, carrots, herbs) into sealed tubs.
- ☐ Confirm potluck arrivals & pickup times for any ordered food.
- ☐ Set out serving platters, tongs, and clean table linen before bed.

DEC 24 · CHRISTMAS EVE

Roast, Reheat & Relax

- ☐ **Morning:** Boil pasta, prep rice cooker, chill drinks & ice.
- ☐ **Afternoon:** Roast/air-fry centerpiece; glaze ham; fry lumpia last.
- ☐ **Evening:** Reheat sauces, assemble salads, take a shower & change!
- ☐ **10:30 PM:** Plate food, put out condiments & dessert spoons.
- ☐ **11:30 PM:** Step away from the stove — take photos & enjoy!

Relax Lang Mom Rule: You don't have to make everything from scratch. Pair *one* homemade hero dish with 1–2 make-ahead sides and a store-bought favorite. Your family remembers your warmth at the table far more than how many pans you washed.

3 Palengke, Grocery & Pantry Checklist

Tick off what you already have in the pantry first before heading out.

WET MARKET · MEAT & SEAFOOD

- [ ] Pork belly / liempo / ham
- [ ] Whole chicken or chicken cuts
- [ ] Beef (brisket / tenderloin / ground)
- [ ] Shrimp, fish, or seafood
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____

FRESH PRODUCE & AROMATICS

- [ ] Garlic, red & white onions, ginger
- [ ] Carrots, potatoes, bell peppers
- [ ] Calamansi / lemons, spring onions
- [ ] Fresh fruits (grapes, mangoes, pomelo)
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____

PANTRY, PASTA & BAKING

- [ ] Pasta / pancit noodles & tomato sauce
- [ ] Cooking oil, soy sauce, vinegar, oyster sauce
- [ ] All-purpose cream, condensed & evap milk
- [ ] Graham crackers, gulaman/gelatin, tablea
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____

CHILLED, DRINKS & HOSTING

- [ ] Butter, quick-melt cheese, queso de bola
- [ ] Mayonnaise, pickles, raisins, pineapple
- [ ] Juice, soda, coffee, wine, tube ice
- [ ] Foil, paper towels, garbage bags, leftover tubs
- [ ] _____
- [ ] _____

4 Headcount & Budget

Adults / Kids: _____

Target Budget (₱): _____

Grocery / Market (₱): _____

Orders / Takeout (₱): _____

Actual Total (₱): _____

5 Dec 25–26 Leftover Plan

Plan tomorrow's meals now so you don't cook on Christmas Day:

- [ ] **Breakfast (Dec 25):** Ham & queso de bola pandesal + hot tsokolate or coffee.
- [ ] **Lunch (Dec 25):** Turn leftover lechon/roast into *Lechon Paksiw* or *Sinigang na Lechon*.
- [ ] **Dinner (Dec 25):** Reheat pasta + salad + chilled dessert platter (zero new dishes!).
- [ ] **Dec 26 Reset:** Light sabaw (tinola or veggies) + fried rice with diced ham.

Notes, Orders & Potluck Reminders

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