



A Pineapple Welcome

In America the pineapple was first introduced as a symbol of hospitality by sea captains, who would sail to the Caribbean Islands and return to the New England colonies with cargoes of fruit, spices and rum. Upon a ship's return, the captain would spear a pineapple on one of his fence posts outside his home, where it would serve as an invitation for friends to visit and share his food, drink and tales of adventure.

It was Christopher Columbus who discovered the pineapple in 1493 while exploring the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe. European sailors recorded their findings with wonder; in Renaissance Europe fresh fruit was seldom available.

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