

# Italy and the Pignatta

Sunday July 20 2014 - breaking time : 6:00 PM

Location---Center of the mall.



## Italy and the Pignatta

In Italy they were adopted for the celebration of Lent, and the first Sunday of Lent became known as Piñata Sunday. Originally they were made, without any decoration, out of what looked like a clay water pitcher, this is the reason behind the Italian name pignatta, which means fragile pot. It is also said that the traditional shape was that of a pine cone, pigna in Italian.

The Bourbons, rulers of Naples and the two Sicilys, added them into their parties, and instead of seeds they filled them with gold coins and precious gems. It was customary to give a more modest piñata amongst the Italian peasants during the forty days prior to the Catholic celebration of Christ's resurrection, or Lent.

From Italy the custom traveled to Spain, where breaking the pot tradition, as it was usually called, was celebrated the first Sunday of Lent, following Ash Wednesday. For this Piñata Sunday or Piñata Dance, the Spaniards used a clay pitcher or pot, that in the beginning had no decoration whatsoever and over time was completely covered with ribbons, garlands and paper fringes.

