

Traditional Moldavian Christmas Dessert
Turte cu julfa or *Pelincile/Scutecele Domnului*
(God's Diapers)



This traditional cake is usually prepared on the last day of Christmas Lent. It is a centuries-old tradition in the villages of northern Moldova.

This cake is made of unleavened dough, unlike the ritual baking on Christmas days. The cake suggests austerity and the expectation of the Christmas holiday.

The cake was usually prepared with hemp seeds. Over the years, hemp seeds have not been cultivated by Romanian peasants for various reasons. So, for this cake, the housewives started using walnut kernels. Also, many ignorant people have associated the name hemp with drugs so they chose not to use this ingredient anymore.

Moldavians usually give alms this cake or greet the priest on Christmas Eve.



Resources:

<https://www.digi24.ro/magazin/timp-liber/divertisment/traditie-in-ultima-zi-a-postului-moldovenii-pregatesc-turte-cu-julfa-pentru-a-l-intampina-pe-pruncul-iisus-173425>

<https://www.avantaje.ro/articol/in-ziua-de-ajun-gospodinele-din-moldova-prepara-turte-cu-julfa>

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