

# Waitress



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Vietnamese New Year or Et is a very special festival in Vietnam because it marks the arrival of spring and the beginning of another year. On that day, people will gather together to celebrate Et, to worship their ancestors, to give wishes to each other, to give lucky money to children, etc. Before Et, people go to shopping so the market is always crowded. They buy some new clothes, shoes, food, fruits or decorations for their house. The atmosphere is noisy with sellers trying to advertise their products and the buyers trying to ask for a low price.

Their voices and the sounds of laughing harmony together makes the scene become lively and cheerful. Everywhere covers by the smell of food and flower. How can I describe this smell so far? This is something simple but very powerful that make no one can't stop by to look at and buy something for their family. Some people just walk around the market to contemplate the scene and enjoy a little atmosphere of Et and there always has a smile on their faces. Next we go to a fabric store and we will attract by so many fabrics with different colors and dutiful embroidery.

The scene is so bustling with those measuring the meters of fabric to cut for their customers and those who chatting with others and most of the customers are women and children. After going shopping, people come back home and start to clean up their house because they think the good thing and luck will come to them when their house is clean and tidy. Then, they start to paint their house and decorate with Maim and Dad which are two typical trees for Vietnamese New Year.

You can hear the sound of broom sweeping on the floor or feel the strong smell from coat of paint or feel the hurry of people around you. Next, they go cooking some traditional food and two traditional New Year's cakes that is Bánh Chưng and Bánh Dày. Everyone is sweating and tired because of the hot air from the kitchen but they are still happy and having some conversations with their brothers and sisters. Each Vietnamese family has a family altar to pay respect and remind of their ancestor. They put a tray of five fruits type in the altar and pray for prosperity for a family.

In the kitchen, they also have the altar for Kitchen God who report to the Jade Emperor about the events in that house over the past year, return to heaven on the 23rd day of the twelfth month by lunar calendar. During Tết, everyone in a family gathers in their parent's' house and they celebrate Tết together. Although they are far from each other, they still come back their parent's' house in New Year. In this place, they actually feel comfortable and belonging. They can have a chance to stay up late together and wait for the firework.

The clock is midnight now and everyone run to the front yard or to the street to look at the firework. The colorful of firework, shouting of people, the giggling of children becomes a very animate and lively picture. Then, they start to give greetings to each other and lucky money to children. The atmosphere is so warm and cozy with the voice of adults greeting their parent's and the sound of laughing from the children after getting their lucky money. At this moment, they never forget and they will keep it as the most memorable thing in their life.

The custom for the first day of New Year is people must not sweep anything in their house because this will take away their luck and money. Next morning, people wear their new clothes to go to pagoda or temple to pray for family health, prosperity and luck for New Year. People wear the best outfit they have but it is still appropriate to a pagoda. We can see the smoke of incense and hear the prayer whispering everywhere. Then, they go home and have the first meal with family. During a meal, the adult discuss about their past year, family situation, health and plan for New Year ND they drink a little bit of wine to cheer up the atmosphere.

To children, they try to finish their meal fast and to start playing games with their siblings and cousins. The parent's look at them tenderly and feel happy with this scene. The next day, people go to visit their relatives and friends. The host will bring some Jam and hot tea for the visitor and they start to greet and wish good things to each other and give lucky money for children. After that, they sit together and start to talk about something in the past or to predict about their future.

Then, people go to the flower festival to contemplate the beauty of many different kinds of flower in District one and to take some pictures with family. After Et, everyone in a family gathers again and has meal together. On this day, people will welcome the Kitchen God back to their home and they start to clean up their house. Everyone gives a hand to finish cleaning and they go back to their own house. Now, everything goes back to their daily life. In the market, there is no longer selling those New Year's stuffs and not so crowded people like three days ago.

The flower festival is over and it gives back the quietness to this district. People can take a rest for couple days before they go back to work or school. In their mind, Et is Just happening yesterday. Et is a traditional and popular festival for Vietnamese people. In this day, people have a chance to reunion and celebrate this special day together. Et is the moment which marks the arrival of the spring and the beginning of a New Year coming. Although some people live in abroad, Et is always the most precious and memorable moment in their life.