

## ***Why a pineapple?***

Throughout the history of the Americas, the exotic and much-coveted pineapple has been a symbol of welcome and hospitality. Because visiting in each other's homes was the primary means of entertainment and cultural exchange, the concept of hospitality became a central element of colonial life. In colonial America, hostesses would feature a pineapple at the center of the dining table when guests arrived. (Due to the scarcity of the fruit, sometimes the pineapple was "rented" from a local grocer; if the family could afford it, it would be shared as a dessert. Either way, visitors felt honored by the effort extended to secure the symbolic pineapple for their visit.) It symbolized the warmest welcome a hostess could extend to her guests, and if the visitors spent the night, they would stay in a room which featured a bed on which pineapples had been carved on either the bedposts or the headboard – which sometimes meant evicting the homeowners from their own bed!

[Read more](#) about the history of the pineapple as symbol of hospitality.

