

we all eat



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Romania Cooking for a Wedding

Weddings are important in all cultures, and nowhere more so than in Romanian villages. After a civil ceremony and one in the Romanian Orthodox church, newlyweds parade down the street, carry 2.5 foot tall candles, accompanied by friends and musicians. Offerings of plum brandy and a sweet bread symbolize hospitality and wishes for wealth. The women who prepare the food serve it at the reception and then offer the leftovers to those still dancing at breakfast time.

To pass the time waiting for a connection train in Salva, between the Maramures and Transylvanian regions of Romania, I took a walk. Looking down into one of the farmyards, I saw this group of women cleaning chickens. "What are you doing?" I shouted. "Preparing for a wedding tomorrow!" they answered. With traditional village hospitality, they invited me to the event. I snapped their picture as an approving salute.

—Kandis Scott, *Peace Corps/Romania, 1994-96*

Romania

Capital Bucharest

Population 22,215,421 (2009 est.)

Life Expectancy 72.45 years

Literacy 97.3% (age 15 and over can read and write)

Languages Romanian 91% (official), Hungarian 6.7%, Romany 1.1%

Religions Eastern Orthodox 86.8%, Protestant 7.5%,

Roman Catholic 4.7%

Government republic

Source: *The World Factbook, 2009*

Romania

