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## Learn about VAPPU here

Posted by Henni - 2008/04/24 12:55

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New to Finland people need info on Vappu so let's write here what it's all about. :) Help me out folks!

Sincerely,  
Henni

www.visithelsinki.fi:  
May Day Celebration  
30.4.2008 - 1.5.2008

Venue: Helsinki

Market Square, Ullanlinna, Kaisaniemi

The Havis Amanda fountain statue is washed by university students as the prelude to the city's May Day (Vappu) celebrations. This fun ritual, in which Havis Amanda also gets her student cap, takes place at 18 on the evening before May Day and attracts thousands of viewers to the Market Square. The partying continues the next morning with traditional herring and champagne picnics in Kaivopuisto Park and Ullanlinna Hill.

Tradition exist also in Germany, Sweden and Estonia, but the Finnish is the following.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walpurgis\\_Night](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walpurgis_Night)  
Finland - Vappu

A team of students performing the traditional "capping of Havis Amanda" during Helsinki's Vappu. Today in Finland, Walpurgis Night (Vapunaatto, Valborgsmässoafton) is, along with New Year's Eve and Juhannus, the biggest carnival-style festivity that takes place in the streets of Finland's towns and cities. The celebration is typically centered on plentiful use of sparkling wine and other alcoholic beverages. The student traditions are also one of the main characteristics of "Vappu". From the end of the 19th century, "Fin de Siècle", and onwards, this traditional upper class feast has been co-opted by students attending university, already having received their student cap. Many people who have graduated from lukio wear the cap. One tradition is drinking sima, whose alcohol content varies. Fixtures include the capping of the Havis Amanda, a nude female statue in Helsinki, and the biannually alternating publications of ribald matter called Äpy and Julkku. Both are sophomoric; but while Julkku is a standard magazine, Äpy is always a gimmick. Classic forms have included an Äpy printed on toilet paper and a bedsheet. Often the magazine has been stuffed inside standard industrial packages such as sardine-cans and milk cartons. The festivities also include a picnic on May 1st, which is sometimes prepared in a lavish manner.

The Finnish tradition is also a shadowing of the Soviet Era May Day parade. Starting with the parties of the left, the whole of the Finnish political scene has nominated Vappu as the day to go out on stumps and agitate. This does not only include right-wing parties, but also others like the church have followed suit, marching and making speeches. In Sweden it is only the labour and socialist parties which use May 1 for political activities, while others observe the traditional festivities. The labourers who were active in the 1970s still party on the first of May. They arrange carnivals and the radio plays their old songs that workers liked to listen to. The labour spirit lies most in the capital of Finland, Helsinki.

The First of May is also a day for everything fun and crazy: children and families gather in market places to celebrate the first day of the spring and the coming summer. There are balloons and joy, people drink their first beers outside, there are clowns and masks and a lot of fun. The first of May includes colourful streamers, funny and silly things and sun. The first of May means the beginning of the spring for many people in Finland. There is also an erotic frisson involved with Vappu's ribald side. The only semi-humorous adage is that who doesn't have a paramour on Vappu, will have to make do without one also on midsummer night.

Traditionally May 1st is celebrated by a picnic in a park (Kaivopuisto or Kaisaniemi in the case of Helsinki). For most, the picnic is enjoyed with friends on a blanket with good food and sparkling wine. Some people, however, arrange extremely lavish picnics with pavilions, white table cloths, silver candelabras, classical music and lavish food. The picnic usually starts early in the morning, and some hardcore party goers continue the celebrations of the previous evening without sleeping in between. Some Student organisations have traditional areas where they camp every year and they usually send someone to reserve the spot early on. As with other Vappu traditions, the picnic includes student caps, sima, streamers and balloons.

Post edited by: Henni, at: 2008/04/24 13:07

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## Learn about VAPPU here

Posted by Henni - 2008/04/24 12:57

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Post edited by: Henni, at: 2008/04/24 13:09

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## Re:Learn about VAPPU here

Posted by Tbag - 2008/04/24 13:53

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thanx Henni , that was so good info to know .

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## Learn about VAPPU here

Posted by Henni - 2008/04/27 18:02

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Opening hours during 1st of May and Ascension Day 2008  
Check opening hours for example for restaurants and museums

[http://www.hel2.fi/tourism/matko\\_tiedotteet/en/Vappu%202008eng.pdf](http://www.hel2.fi/tourism/matko_tiedotteet/en/Vappu%202008eng.pdf)

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