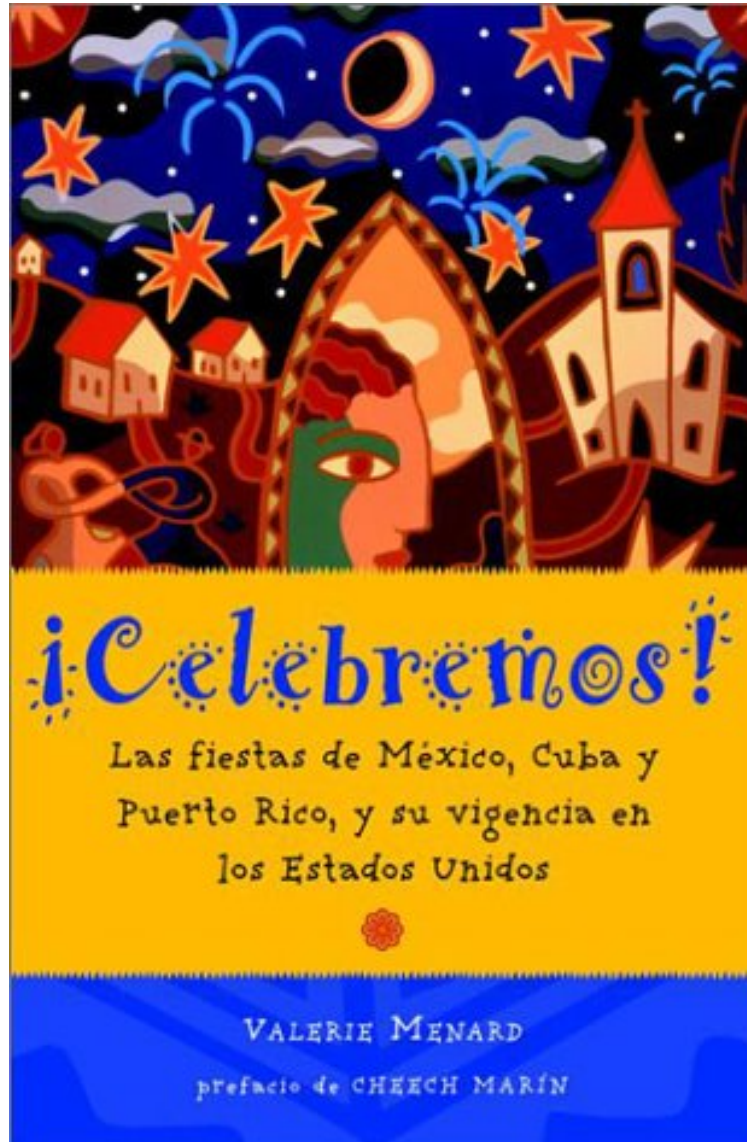


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## Celebremos!: Las fiestas de Mxico, Cuba y Puerto Rico, y cmo se festejan en los Estados Unidos

Valerie Menard

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Valerie Menard : Celebremos!: Las fiestas de Mxico, Cuba y Puerto Rico, y cmo se festejan en los Estados Unidos before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Celebremos!: Las fiestas de Mxico, Cuba y Puerto Rico, y cmo se festejan en los Estados Unidos:

Why is a girl's fifteenth birthday celebration (quinceaera) more elaborate than the sixteenth? Why is the Day of the Dead cause for celebration? Why is the Virgin of Guadalupe the patron saint of a whole continent? The answer to these and many more questions can be found in this thoroughly entertaining and essential guide to Hispanic holidays. Learn how Latinos traditionally celebrate their national holidays, religious festivals, weddings, birthdays, and coming-of-age celebrations. The major feasts, festivals and family-orientated events are featured, with a particular emphasis on Mexican, Cuban, and Puerto Rican celebrations. This book describes each celebration within its historical context and discusses the popular traditions that have been established over time. Most importantly, *Celebremos!* shows how these events are currently celebrated in the United States, to help preserve family unity, cultural identity, and Hispanic heritage. And because almost all celebrations are associated with wonderful foods, *Celebremos!* includes a handy list of recipes to make each festivity an event with genuine Hispanic flavor.

From Publishers Weekly  
A former editor of Hispanic magazine and a regular contributor to Latino-related publications like *Frontera* and *Latin Heat*, Menard has compiled a guide to Mexican, Cuban, and Puerto Rican celebrations and their relevance in the United States. Here, she discusses the typical customs, special foods and activities, and religious and social histories of holidays, including *Día de los Muertos*, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, *Día de la Raza* (Columbus Day), *Cinco de Mayo*, National Puerto Rican Day, and many others. In an attempt to clarify common misconceptions about the meaning of certain holidays, Menard goes back to their origins, stressing the indigenous and Spanish legacies behind the festivities and their importance to particular immigrant groups. Menard also studies the growing interest in these holidays not only by Hispanics, but also by non-Hispanic Americans who have become interested in these traditions as Latin American immigration increases and Latin culture influences television and other media. Throughout, Menard avoids a political stance toward political holidays (e.g., Cuban Independence Day). This book will appeal to Hispanic immigrants who observe these traditions and who are interested in learning more about their heritage. It will also be a useful tool for librarians and booksellers to use in planning community programming. Highly recommended for public libraries and bookstores. Bernadette M. Lopez-Fitzsimmons, Manhattan Coll. Libs., Riverdale, NY Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.  
About the Author  
Valerie Menard has been an editorial director of Hispanic magazine since 1994. She is also a freelance writer for many Latino magazines, including *Estylo*, *Latin Heat*, *Vista*, and *Frontera*. Born in Glendale, California and raised in San Antonio, Texas, Valerie currently resides in Austin, Texas.