





A rite of passage celebration for 15-year-old girls in Latin America.

Thought to have been based on Aztec ceremonies. Celebrates a young woman's maturity, and reinforces her commitment to family, tradition, and community.

La Invitación



La parte importante



The most important component is a ***Misa de acción de gracias*** (a mass to give thanks.).

The birthday girl arrives in a fancy full-length dress.

La Misa de Acción de Gracias

Accompanied by her parents and padrinos (godparents), she is specially seated at the foot of the altar throughout the service.

During the mass, there are children who act to place the pillow she will kneel upon at the altar and sprinkle flowers in her path as she makes her way to the altar.



La Corona



A headpiece is worn during the Mass.
Her parents or Godparents exchange the
headpiece with a tiara or crown and she is handed
a scepter as well during the mass.
The headpiece symbolizes a princess before god
and the scepter is used to symbolize the passing
on of adult responsibilities.



At the mass, the Quinceañera may also be gifted with



- una cruz (a cross)
- una biblia (a bible)
- un rosario (rosary) symbolizing her faith.
- The quinceañera's cross or rosary is often given to signify faith in God, in herself, and in the world.



El Sequito

She may be accompanied by up to seven damas (maids of honor) and as many chambelanes (chamberlains), selected from among close family and friends.



El final de la Misa:



At the end of the mass younger sisters, cousins and friends pass out conmemoratorios (commemorative favors) to those in attendance.

The quinceañera puts her bouquet on the altar or in a niche honoring the Virgin Mary, or most often that of the Virgen de Guadalupe.

Conmemoratorios *(Commemorative Favors)*



Pretty In Purple ▷



La Fiesta

La Quinceañera usually has a party, complete with live band music.

The parents and godparents pay for the expenses.



El baile

The big moment comes when the festejada (celebrant) and her number one chambelán (escort) dance to a traditional waltz.



El Pastel

Another highlight is the cutting of the cake. Dripping in meringue frosting and decorated in hues to match the quinceañera's dress.

- the cake may be of such monumental proportions that the door leading into the party locale must be removed from its hinges to accommodate it!



Cambio de zapatos

At the beginning of the evening, the guest of honor will wear flat shoes.

At the end of the night, she will be presented with a pair of elegant, heeled shoes to signify the maturing of a young woman.



La Muñeca

A porcelain doll is present, usually wearing a matching dress to that of the Quinceañera.

Covering the doll are ribbons Capias with the name and date of the Quinceañera.

Towards the end of the celebration, the Quinceañera walks around, passes out the ribbons and personally thanks each of the guests who attended.

This usually draws an end to the formal celebration of the Quinceañera, having begun the day as a child and ending the day affirmed in her new position of young woman.

