

# a holiday season to savor:

5 Tips to Make Limited-Time Offers Hot Sellers This Winter



**Season's Greetings revolve around season's eatings**—and every year foodservice operators and distributors scramble to make the most of this magical time. 'Tis the season for limited-time offers (LTOs), and with the right menu planning, the possibilities are limitless.

#### HOLIDAYS MOST ASSOCIATED WITH SEASONAL FLAVORS & LTOS<sup>1</sup>

Thanksgiving **71%** Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa **64%** 

"Consumers associate special flavors and LTOs most readily with Thanksgiving and winter religious holidays," according to a report from Datassential.<sup>1</sup> Given that **two in five consumers** consider seasonal flavors and appropriate sourcing when choosing new offerings,<sup>2</sup> flavors and LTOs made with in-season ingredients are a must for maximizing sales.

Here are **five tips** for making holiday menus more flavorful and festive.







PLATE PLANT-BASED COMFORT AND JOY
 LOOK FOR LOCALLY SOURCED INGREDIENTS
 EXPLORE HOLIDAY-SPECIFIC OFFERINGS
 GIVE YOUR BEVERAGE MENU A FUNCTIONAL BOOST
 SATISFY THE APPETITE FOR VALUE

### PLATE PLANT-BASED COMFORT AND JOY

In U.S. retail alone, the plant-based food market has grown from \$3.9 billion in 2017 to **\$8.1 billion** in 2023.<sup>3</sup> Six in 10 households purchased plant-based foods last year.<sup>3</sup> What's more, plant-based foods have evolved, with greater variety and flavor profiles.

(1)



Hearty, plant-based dishes that provide **warmth and comfort**, such as vegan stews, creamy plant-based soups, and meatless shepherd's pie, are sure to be welcome additions to holiday menus.

Great options as stand-alone offerings, Campbell's Foodservice offer an array of plant-based favorites. Add seasonal savor and variety to the menu with these and other craveable, filling soups.



Tomato Chickpea & Kale Soup Made with *Campbell's*® Condensed Tomato Soup



Plant-Based Chili with Beans Made with *Campbell's*® Condensed Tomato Soup

# LOOK FOR LOCALLY SOURCED INGREDIENTS

When developing new menu items and LTO concepts, be sure to include locally sourced seasonal ingredients, including winter vegetables like Brussels sprouts, sweet potatoes, and turnips.

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### WHAT CONSUMERS WANT<sup>2</sup> Local ingredients **47%** Seasonal ingredients **41%**

Picked at the peak of ripeness, local and seasonal ingredients are especially fresh, flavorful, and nutritious. They're also **economical and environmentally friendly** because they don't require long transportation or extensive packaging.

Count on Campbell's to infuse festive flavor to complement locally sourced dishes as a tasty seasonal side.

### WINTER VEGETABLES

#### 🗹 Beets

- **G** Brussels sprouts
- **Cabbage**
- Carrots
- Celery
- Collard greens
- 🗹 Leeks

Onions
Parsnips
Potatoes
Rutabaga
Sweet potatoes and yams
Turnips
Winter squash

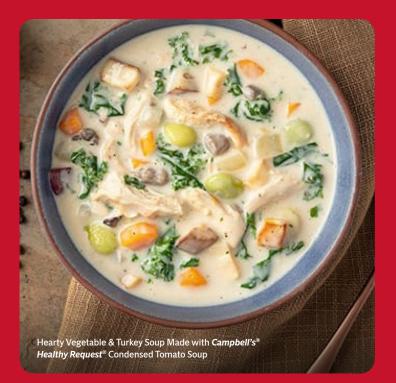


Creamy Brussels Sprouts with Bacon Made with Campbell's® Condensed Cream of Mushroom Soup

## EXPLORE HOLIDAY-SPECIFIC OFFERINGS

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**Forty-seven percent** of consumers believe that the purpose of the holidays is to gather people for dinner.<sup>2</sup>





Turkey Pot Pie Soup with Campbell's<sup>®</sup> Healthy Request<sup>®</sup> Cream of Mushroom Soup Even during the pandemic, **1 in 4** consumers turned to restaurants during the holidays, and nearly half of Gen Z were open to getting parts, if not their whole, Christmas meal from a restaurant.<sup>2</sup> With the return of foot traffic, restaurants can expect that percentage to increase.

Now more than ever, the season serves up a feast of opportunities to add LTOs with flavors associated with the holidays, including cranberry, pumpkin, and turkey.



### GIVE YOUR BEVERAGE MENU A FUNCTIONAL BOOST

To keep holiday menus fresh yet traditional, a balance between **novelty and nostalgia** is needed. Adding specialty beverages that combine flavor and function can bring good cheer.



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A festive range of functional drinks can contribute to this balance while creating buzz—and you can add a few without reinventing the wheel but by elevating core beverages with flavors that provide a seasonal twist.

Consider warm beverages like a turmericinfused pumpkin latte, adaptogenic hot chocolates, and herbal teas with global flavors and aromatic ingredients.



#### A TOAST TO FUNCTIONAL BEVERAGES

U.S. functional beverage sales increased **54%** from March 2020 to March 2024, reaching \$9.2 billion faster than the 43% growth of the nonalcoholic beverage market overall.<sup>4</sup>



### SATISFY THE APPETITE FOR VALUE

Consumers love to dig into deals, especially around the holidays, when expenses are high and budgets are tight. Limited-time offers like buy one, get one free, value bundles, and combo meal deals bring a lot of value to the table. Position them as holiday specials or "our gift to you" to wrap them in the spirit of the season.

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### LTOS STEP UP TO THE PLATE<sup>8</sup>

#### **BUFFALO WILD WINGS**

\$20 unlimited boneless chicken wings RESULT: Foot traffic flocks onsite

### STARBUCKS

50% off deal on Fridays RESULT: **Friday visits perk up significantly** 

### **CHILI'S**

Revamped "3 for Me" menu special RESULT: Weekly year-over-year visits on a hot streak

Consider offering customers their choice of Campbell's Foodservice as part of a holiday meal bundle, as an appetizer, or alongside a sandwich for lunch.

#### **PRICE DROPS ON THE RISE**

- 40% of operators who have increased menu prices agree that consumers are hungry for deals—up from 33% in Q1 2024.<sup>6</sup>
- Value-oriented LTOs are increasing rapidly, with 35% more in April 2024 compared to the previous year.<sup>7</sup>





Maximize your holiday menu variety with Campbell's Foodservice

Across foodservice segments, Campbell's pours on the variety people crave.

Pore over our soup product portfolio for options that serve a wide range of culinary applications on the holidays and every day.

Datassential, Seasonal Flavors & Holiday Menus Report, 2022
 Datassential, Seasonal LTOs Report, 2021
 Good Food Institute, U.S. Retail Market Insights for the Plant-Based Industry, 2024

4. Durbin, Dee-Ann, and Dixon, Loise, "Do Drinks That Are Meant to Do More Than Taste Good Actually Provide Any Health Benefits?" AP, April 15, 2024 5. Technomic, Q2 2024 Consumer & Operator Outlook Report Technomic, Ignite Menu, 2024
 Arnold, Bracha, "Limited Time Offers: Price Wars Boost Visits", Placer.ai Blog, 2024