New Year's Eve

Many countries around the world celebrate the start of the new year. On New Year's Eve, Americans flock to Times Square in New York to see a huge crystal ball drop to welcome the new year, and couples kiss at midnight to bring good luck for the next year.

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In Brazil, the new year is welcomed on the beach. They try to jump over seven waves because they believe this will bring good luck, and there is a tradition of throwing white flowers onto white-tipped waves as a sacrifice to the sea goddess Yemanja in return for her blessing.

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In London, people gather in Trafalgar Square, where everyone sings traditional songs to welcome the new year. Some British people also respect old superstitions: they do not allow blondes or redheads to be the first to enter the house, and they escort the old year out the back door while welcoming the new year through the front. And, in Scotland, a handsome young man is invited to bring whiskey as the first guest of the year, bringing with him good luck for the next twelve months.

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Where do people in New York gather to watch the crystal ball drop?

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What do people in Brazil throw into the waves?

What drink should the first guest of the year bring to a Scottish home?