A timeline for food, feasts, festivals

Greece

6500-3000	Neolithic
3000-2100	Early Bronze Age (Early Halladic 2800-1900)
2100-1600	Middle Bronze Age (Middle Halladic 1900-1580)
1600-1150	Late Bronze Age (Late Helladic 1580-1150)
1600	Mycenae/palace structures
1250-1225	**The Trojan War**
1150-900	Early Dark Ages (Submycenaean 1125-1050/Protogeometric 1050-900)
1050	small chiefdoms established; migration of Greeks to Ionia (west coast of Turkey)
1000	Dorian Greeks settle on the islands
900-750	Late Dark Age (Early Geometric 900-850/Middle Geometric 850-750)
900	population increase; new settlements
800	rapid population increase; **Greeks develop an alphabet**; earliest temples built
750-490	Archaic Period (Late Geometric 750-700)
750-700	**City-states emerge**
750	overseas colonization in the West
750-720	***Iliad* and *Odyssey* composed**
700	**Hesiod; lyric poetry**
700-650	evolution of hoplite armor and tactics
650	colonization of the Black Sea; Lycurgean reforms at Sparta
600	beginning of science and philosophy (Presocratics)
582-73	Pythian, Isthmian, Nemean games inaugurated
560-514	Peisistratus and sons tyrants of Athens; Peisistratus explans religious festivals
507	**Cleisthenes institutes political reforms in Athens (democracy)**
499	Ionians revolt
5th Century	era of rationalism and scientists; Hippocrates; advances in medicine; increase in literacy
490-323	Classical Period
490	**Marathon (490-79 Persian Wars)**
480-79	**Thermopylae, Artemesium, Salamis, Plataea, Mycale; Persians retreat**
477	Delian League established
460-445	'First' Peloponnesian War
454	**Athenians transfer treasury from Delos to Athens**
431-404	**Peloponnesian War**
399	trial and execution of Socrates

4th Century	rise of *rhetores* at Athens; economic inequality; *stasis* throughout Greece
395-87	Corinthian War
359	accession of Philip II
357-55	Social War
356	birth of Alexander the Great
347	Ddeath of Plato
340	Athens and Macedon at war
336	invasion of Asia by Philip II
335	Aristotle founds the Lyceum
323	**death of Alexander**

Rome

4000	emergence of agriculture
1800-1200	Bronze Age
1000	first trances of settlements at the site of Rome
800	Phoenicians found Carthage
900-700	Iron Age
700s	**introduction of writing to Italy**
700-400	Etruscan and Greek cities at their height in Italy
753-510	**Monarchy (7 kings)**
650-600	construction of the Forum Romanum
580-480	archaic period
500-287	Struggle of the Orders
450	Twelve Tables
387	Gauls loot Rome
396	Romans take over Veii
343-41	First Samnite War
341-38	Latin War
326-304	Second Samnite War
298-290	Third Samnite War
280	Rome issues its first coins
264-41	First Punic War; Sicily becomes Rome's first colony at the end
237	Roman takeover of Sardinia from Carthage
227	Sardinia-Corsica becomes a province
218-201	Second Punic War (final defeat at Zama)
215-205	First Macedonian War
198	two Roman provinces established in Spain
200-196	Second Macedonian War
c.a 200	**beginning of historical writing in Rome; Roman elites engage with Greek literature, culture, philosophy, rhetoric**

195	Cato's consulship
186-83	Suppression of the cult of Bacchus
192-89	Rome defeats Antiochus III in the Syrian War
171-68	Third Macedonian War
168	**Polybius comes to Rome as a hostage**
150s-130s	War with the Lusitanians and Celtiberians
149-146	Third Punic War, destruction of Carthage, province of Africa
133	capture of Numantia; Tiberius Gracchus tribune; Pergamum bequeathed to Rome
136-32	First Slave War
121	province of Transalpine Gaul established
113-101	confrontation with Cimbri and Teutones
107, 104-01	consulship of Marius; reform of the milirary
112-05	war with Jugurtha in Numidia
104-100	Second Slave War in Siciliy
91-87	Social War
90-89	citizenship extended throughout Italy
88	Sulla's first march on Rome90-85
90-85	war with Mithradates in Asia Minor and Greece
87	Marius and Cinna march on Rome
83-82	Sulla marches on Rome
82-81	dictatorship of Sulla; proscriptions
73-71	slave revolt of Spartacus
74-63	Lucullus and Pompey resume war with Mithradates
70	earliest amphitheater built in Pompeii
63	consulship of Cicero
60-59	'First Triumvirate' (Caesar, Pompey, Crassus)
59	Julius Caesar consul
58-51	Caesar campaigns in Gaul
49	**Caesar crosses the Rubicon**
48	**Pompey defeated by Caesar at Pharsalus, killed in Egypt**
48-47	Cleopatra declared ruler in Egypt
44	Caesar killed
42	Antony and Octavian defeat Brutus and Cassius at Philippi
37	Second Triumvirate
31	**Octavian defeats Antony and Cleopatra at Actium**
27	**first settlement; Octavian renamed Augustus**
14 CE	**Augustus dies, succeeded by Tiberiius**
37	Tiberius dies, succeeded by Caligula
41	Caligula assassinated, succeeded by Claudius
54	Claudius dies, succeeded by Nero
64	Great Fire of Rome
66-73	First Jewish Revolt, destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (70)
68	Nero commits suicide, succeded by Galba

Some writers whose works you may encounter:

Homer (epic poet, c.a. 750)
Hesiod (didactic poet, c.a. 700)
Herodotus (Greek historian, mid-fifth century)
Thucydides (Greek historian, 460-395)
Aeschylus (Greek tragic playwright, 525-456)
Sophocles (Greek tragic playwright, 496-405)
Euripides (Greek tragic playwright, 480-406)
Hippocrates (Greek physician, 460-370)
Aristophanes (Greek comic playwright, 446-386)
Menander (Greek comic playwright, 342-291)
Plautus (Roman comic playwright, 254-184)
Cato the Elder (Censor, 234-149)
Terence (n. African comic playwright, died 159)
Livy (historian, 59-17)
Virgil (epic poet, 70-19)
Seneca (philosopher, 4 BCE-65 CE)
Tacitus (historian, 56CE -117 CE)
Plutarch (historian, biographer, essayist, 45 CE-120 CE)
Suetonius (historian, biographer, 70 CE-130 CE)
Galen (Greek physician, 130 CE-200 CE)
Athenaeus (Greek rhetorician, 2-3rd CE)