

CANADA'S

styleathome

50+
IDEAS
FOR
TREES,
TABLES
&
TREATS

HOLIDAY MAGIC

Celebrate
THE
Season
WITH
Festive
Flair

Give
Thanks
HOSTING
GIFTS
WE LOVE

\$449
MOLTENO
recycled fir wood
dining table

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Celebrate with Style

As I write this, I keenly remember putting together our 2020 holiday issues. In some ways, it feels like a million years ago. We were, as a country and, indeed, an entire world, rocked by the pandemic. With neighbours, friends and family facing a holiday like no other, I remember feeling it was important to be resilient in the face of uncertainty. To go on with the show, as they say.

This year, although I am writing this ahead of the holidays, it looks like it will be safe to “mix households” again and, hopefully, we’ll be able to gather with our nearest and dearest. We know we aren’t out of the woods yet, but we have reason to be hopeful, reason to celebrate. That is why this issue is dedicated to making the season memorable, from unforgettable tablescapes to dazzling trees, from celebratory recipes to homes decked out in holiday finery.

So although we might not all celebrate the season in the same way, and despite the losses we may have experienced over the last year or so, I sincerely hope you’ll find inspiration here to make your holiday a thing of beauty. Enjoy a special meal with friends and make your home beautiful by celebrating the simple things we all appreciate, like nature and the good fortune of being together. I wish you these things and a happy, healthy holiday!

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t [@styleathome](https://twitter.com/styleathome) **i** instagram.com/styleathome



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DECEMBER 2021



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COVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Drew Hadley

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style news

PAINT PALETTE *of the month*



Behr **MORTAR** N380-1,
Home Depot, homedepot.ca.



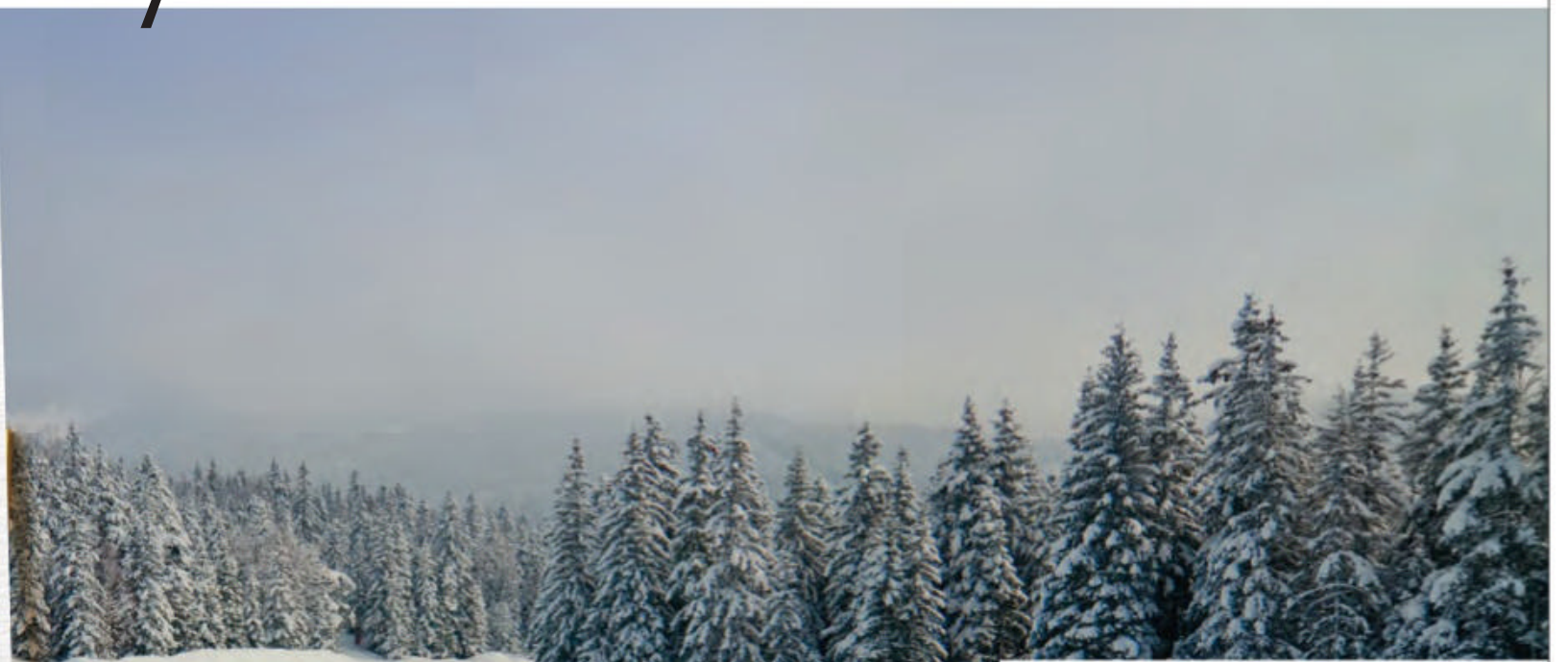
Beauti-Tone **SACRED SPRING**
C12-6-0510-0, Home Hardware,
homehardware.ca.



Behr **MIDSUMMER GOLD** P280-7,
Home Depot, homedepot.ca.



Beauti-Tone **ON THE GREENS**
C34-1-1561-3, Home Hardware,
homehardware.ca.



WE'RE INSPIRED BY...

the pristine beauty of winter woodlands. The icy blues and greys of snow in sun and shadow contrasted by the deep green of conifers is a peaceful palette indoors and out. Though it's cool in tone, we warmed it up with yellow, like the sun dancing on snow.

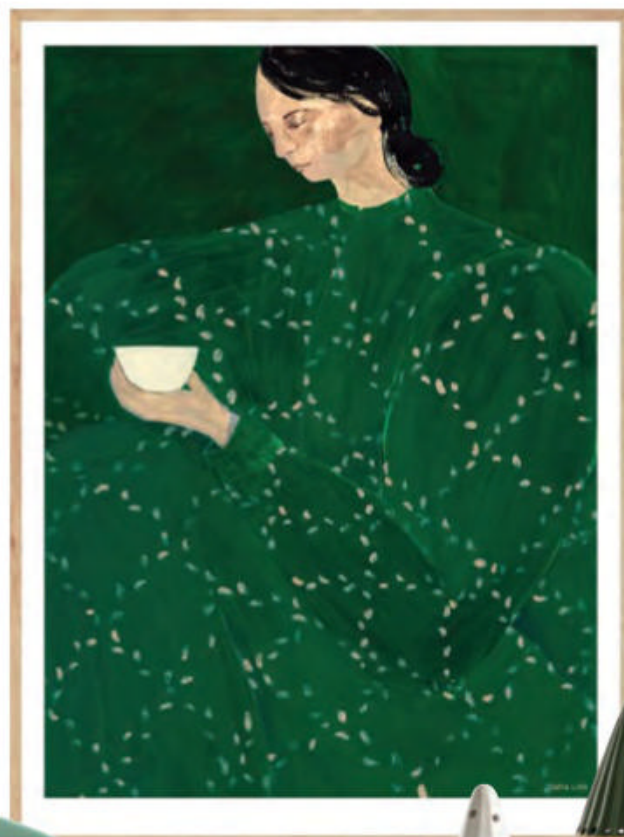




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Ever Green

1 **Velvet CHRISTMAS STOCKING**, \$17, Bouclair. 2 **S'well insulated BOTTLE**, \$45, Vdev. 3 **Coffee Alone at Place de Clichy by Sofia Lind POSTER**, \$68, Buk & Nola. 4 **Artificial eucalyptus WREATH**, \$99, Véronneau. 5 **TRAYS**, \$179, set of 3, Jamais Assez. 6 **Porcelain LED-lit TREES**, \$270, set of 5, Crate and Barrel. 7 **PLATE**, \$12, Crate and Barrel. 8 **Gus Modern SOFA** upholstered in Margot Loft fabric, \$2,350, Nüspace. 9 **Velasca CARAFE**, \$190, Obakki. 10 **Wioletta POUF**, \$399, Mobilia. 11 **Eames ELEPHANT**, \$189, Jamais Assez. 12 **Velvet BENCH**, \$114, Amazon.



11



12



COMFY AS A COCOON

With its plump shape, soft fabric and room to stretch out on, you'll immediately want to curl up and hibernate in this modular armchair from Mobilia's new Elkin collection.

Chair, \$1,399, Mobilia, mobilia.ca.

A Colourful Holiday

WE LOVE ANNIE SLOAN'S CHALK PAINT. IT'S SO EASY TO USE (NO NEED TO PREP WALLS OR FURNITURE), MAKING IT IDEAL FOR TOUCH-UPS OR A NEW LOOK DURING THE HOLIDAYS. THIS YEAR, ANNIE OFFERS UP IDEAS FOR ADDING CHARM TO YOUR HOLIDAY DECOR - ALL AGAINST A BACKDROP OF HER BEGUILING COLOURS. AUBUSSON BLUE WALLS (ABOVE LEFT) PAIR PERFECTLY WITH BLACK-AND-WHITE TICKING FOR A SOPHISTICATED HOLIDAY LOOK. **TIP:** SIMPLY REPURPOSE SAVED FABRIC SCRAPS BY FASHIONING THEM INTO STOCKINGS OR REUSABLE GIFT BAGS OR WRAP. FOR A DIFFERENT LOOK, PAIR CHATEAU GREY (ABOVE RIGHT), A SOFT SAGE GREEN, WITH NATURAL GREENERY. **TIP:** ADD GILDING WAX TO LEAVES AND BRANCHES FOR A TOUCH OF MAGIC.

Annie Sloan **CHALK PAINT**, from \$45 for one litre (price may vary by region), anniesloan.com.



VISUALIZING, VIRTUALLY

Have you ever seen a product online and wondered what it would look like in a real – or at least virtual – home setting? That's the idea behind The Etsy House, an interactive, augmented-reality experience that lets you virtually visit a "house" full of items. Click on one to see it in greater detail, and purchase, if you like. The selection of products changes seasonally and for special occasions like holidays.

theetsyhouse.com.

WREATH ROUNDUP

Always a grace note on a front door or indoors, a holiday wreath brings cheer to any and every decor. Here are some of our favourites this season.



1



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4

1 PINE CONE, 22", \$50, Reno Depot, renodepot.com. **2 FAUX HOLLY**, 22", \$100, Véronneau, veronneau.com. **3 FAUX BERRIES**, 24", \$146, Wayfair, wayfair.ca. **4 WHEAT SHEAF**, 32", \$25, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

HOME COUNTRY



The Leanne Ford for Crate and Barrel **COLLECTION**, from \$15, crateandbarrel.ca.



Renowned interior designer and HGTV renovation expert Leanne Ford has teamed up with Create and Barrel for the second year in a row to launch a new collection of contemporary, clean-lined furniture, serveware and accessories. The line includes a laid-back holiday collection inspired, Leanne says, by how she herself decorates for the holidays. Combining elements of modern country, romance and Leanne's own style with the unique Crate and Barrel aesthetic, the new collection is perfect for a relaxed decor refresh.



EVERYDAY ARTISTRY



H&M HAS PARTNERED WITH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN ARTISTS TO CREATE THE FOR THE LOVE OF ART COLLECTION, A SELECTION OF UNIQUE ITEMS FOR THE HOME, INFUSED WITH ARTISTIC SENSIBILITY. THE COLLECTION INCLUDES DELICATE, MINIMALIST CERAMIC ILLUSTRATIONS BY PARISIAN SACRÉE FRANGINE, EVOCATIVE PORTRAITS OF WOMEN BY SAO PAULO'S BRUNNA MANCUSO, AND BRIGHTLY COLOURED TEXTILE PRINTS BY ITALIAN-NIGERIAN DIANA EJAITA. ANOTHER WONDERFUL FEATURE IS THAT YOU CAN BRING THIS ART HOME WITHOUT BREAKING YOUR BUDGET.

For the Love of Art **COLLECTION**, from \$30, hm.com.



HOT STUFF!

Electric fireplaces like this sleek contemporary version from Napoleon give you all the warmth and coziness of a traditional fireplace without the need for a chimney or renovation. The unit heats rooms up to 400 square feet, allows you to adjust the colour of the flames (orange, blue or mixed), and even features a Bluetooth speaker.

Napoleon NEFL50HF-BT-LOWC **ELECTRIC FIREPLACE**, \$449, Lowe's, lowes.ca.



COUNT US IN

Kids of all ages love to count down to the big day. Increase the anticipation with a calendar that suits your decor.

- 1 Wall **CALENDAR**, \$25, Bouclair, bouclair.ca.
- 2 Little Wood Home **CALENDAR**, \$100, Veronneau, veronneau.com.
- 3 Limited-edition **CALENDAR** with 27 boxes of different Chanel products, \$1,025, Chanel, chanel.com.



HOLIDAY HOSTING GIFTS



1

Say thank you in a more personal way with a special something from our curated collection of hosting prezzies.



2

3



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1 Big bee **CUSHION**, \$105, Lorna Moffat Design, lornamoffatdesign.com. 2 Kimono silk **PURSE**, \$250, Koti Designs, kotidesigns.ca. 3 Limited-edition shea butter **HAND CREAMS**, \$35 each, L'Occitane, loccitane.com. 4 *Finding Hope* **PRINT**, various sizes, from \$30, April Lacheur, aprillacheurart.com. 5 *Ring of Fire* **ART**, \$175, Botanical Art by Diane, botanicalartbydiane.ca. 6 Inniskillin Vidal Pearl **ICEWINE**, \$50, Wine Rack, winerack.com. 7 Robert Mondavi Private Selection Cabernet Sauvignon **WINE**, \$19, LCBO, lco.com. 8 Okanagan wildflower raw **HONEY**, \$22, Hiveology, hiveology.ca.



9



10



9 Signature **BOXED CHOCOLATES**, \$30, Solasta, solastachocolate.com. 10 Lime Zest and Warm Cypress **HANDY TRIO** (Concentrated Dish Detergent, 240 ml; Hand Soap with Olive Oil, 200 ml; Regenerating Hand Cream, 150 ml) with bamboo tray, \$35, Fruits & Passion, fruits-passion.com. 11 Aroma **PILLOW MISTS**, \$19 each, Little Fox Apothecary, littlefoxapothecary.com. 12 Crescent Cherry **DESK CLOCK**, from \$100, Artpen Studio, artpenstudio.square.site. 13 Manita **BAG**, \$195, Vita Lenta, vitalenta.ca. 14 **CHEESE BOX DELIVERY**, featuring a selection of cheeses (with optional side dish), from \$50, Nibbl Cheese, nibblcheese.com.



11



12



13



14

high OR low?



We've kitted out two dens with snuggly sofa beds for watching holiday classics. Both have layers of cozy textures for maximum comfort, but one has a minimum price tag. Can you tell which one?

PRODUCER PETER PAQUETTE | PHOTOGRAPHY MARK BURSTYN



HIGH \$21,313



\$897
1 Ligne Roset's Linden **SIDE TABLE**,
Home Soci t , homesociete.ca.

\$7,780
2 Echoes **ARMCHAIR**,
Roche Bobois, rochebobois.ca.

\$158
3 Camel shearling **THROW**,
Must, mustsociete.com.

\$115
4 Shorn sheepskin **CUSHION** in
Camel, CB2, cb2.ca.

\$409
5 Robert Abbey **TABLE LAMP**,
Robinson Lighting & Bath,
robinsonco.ca.

\$1,801
6 Ligne Roset's Episode **NIGHT
CHEST**, Home Soci t ,
homesociete.ca.

\$89
7 Zendaya cotton **THROW**,
Urban Barn, urbanbarn.ca.

\$229
8 Modern Lines Turkish silk
CUSHION, CB2, cb2.ca.

\$115
9 Shorn sheepskin **CUSHION**,
CB2, cb2.ca.

\$9,720
10 Geoffrey **SOFA BED**,
Montauk, montauk.com.

PAINT, Pashmina AF-100, Benjamin Moore. *Bear With It* by Alice Zilberberg **ART**, Dimensions Framing.
GlucksteinHome's Robson Slim **CHRISTMAS TREE**, Hudson's Bay. Oui Paper **ORNAMENTS**; coffee-table
BOOKS; Indigo. Indian Shalimar wool **RUG**, ECARPETGALLERY. Japandi **COFFEE TABLE**; Native
Lumbar **CUSHION** (on sofa); Mobilia. **FLOORING**, Duraclac Luxury Vinyl Plank in Natural Oak, Lowes.

LOW \$2,732



\$199
1 Whitman **SIDE TABLE**,
Urban Barn, urbanbarn.ca.

\$499
2 Leif **ARMCHAIR**,
Structube, structube.ca.

\$59
3 Ivory shearling **THROW**,
Urban Barn, urbanbarn.ca.

\$69
4 Evella **CUSHION**,
Mobilia, mobilia.ca.

\$179
5 Ermant **TABLE LAMP**,
Mobilia, mobilia.ca.

\$279
6 Reims walnut **END TABLE**,
Structube, structube.ca.

\$15
7 Mavis knit **THROW**,
Structube, structube.ca.

\$119
8 Nork **CUSHION**,
Mobilia, mobilia.ca.

\$55
9 Oui Shaggy faux fur **CUSHION**,
Indigo, indigo.ca.

\$1,259
10 Finnala **SOFA BED**,
IKEA, ikea.ca.

1



1 Le Nid Atelier's Lying Down Moose ART PRINT, \$119, Simons, simons.ca.
2 Fox WALL ART, \$16, Bouclair, bouclair.ca.
3 Lions WALL ART, \$119, Bouclair, bouclair.ca.

2



Animal Instincts

The majesty of wild creatures is easy to overlook, especially if you live in a city. Make them top of mind by hanging an art print of your favourite animal. It adds beauty and is a great reminder to protect and honour Mother Nature.

3



SOFA, SO GOOD

Whether for overnight guests when you don't have a spare room or for getting super loungey in front of the TV, a sofa bed is the ultimate multi-tasker. When investing, ensure that the frame is sturdy, the mattress is comfy, and - most important - it's comfortable for sitting, too. We love this one because in addition to a pullout bed, it features a chaise longue with storage space - perfect for storing bedding.

Soma sectional SOFA BED, \$3,199, Article, article.com.

This hard-working sofa bed offers all the coziness of a sectional with the bonus of an extra bed and storage.

ARMED & COMFY

Open construction, mellow wood frames, cushy seats and luxe fabrics - these are the hot seats you want to sit in. We've found one for every budget.

≡ HIGH

\$3,940

Wood and leather OW149 Colonial Lounge Chair, Kelli, kelli.shop.



\$2,365

Gus Modern's Baltic wood and leather chair, Nüspace, nuspace.ca.



\$1,299

Chiara wood and fabric armchair, EQ3, eq3.ca.



\$299

Corrigan Studio's Fairfax armchair, Wayfair, wayfair.ca.



≡ LOW

Sweet Celebrations

Ring in the new year with layered desserts that look and taste spectacular.

RECIPE MICHELLE DIAMOND | PHOTOGRAPHY TANGO | FOOD STYLING NATALY SIMARD



tip

Change it up! Replace the raspberries with your favourite berries. Chopped strawberries would also be delicious in this semifreddo.

Almond, Raspberry and White Chocolate Semifreddo

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 8 TO 10 SERVINGS

Almond Cake

- 2 egg whites
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ tsp vanilla
- 2 cups ground almonds (approx.)

Raspberry Semifreddo

- 2½ cups fresh raspberries, divided
- ½ cup granulated sugar, divided
- 1½ tbsp lemon juice
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 cup 35% whipping cream
- 1 tsp vanilla

White Chocolate Semifreddo

- 3 egg yolks
- ⅓ cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup 35% whipping cream
- 75 g (2½ oz) white chocolate, melted
- ⅓ cup sliced almonds, toasted (approx.)
- White chocolate shavings

DIRECTIONS

Almond Cake

Preheat oven to 300°F.

Line 9-x-5-inch loaf pan with parchment paper. In large bowl, using electric mixer on medium speed, beat egg whites until soft peaks form; beat in sugar and vanilla until stiff peaks form. Fold in ground almonds. Pour mixture into prepared pan, smoothing top. Bake for 20 minutes. Turn off oven; leave in oven for 15 minutes without opening door. Remove from oven; let cool completely on rack.

Raspberry Semifreddo

In food processor or blender, purée 2 cups of the raspberries, ¼ cup of the sugar, and lemon juice; strain and set aside. In a heatproof bowl, whisk egg yolks and remaining sugar until smooth; place bowl over saucepan of barely simmering water (bowl should not touch water), whisking constantly until thickened, about 8 minutes. Let cool for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in medium bowl, using electric mixer on medium speed, beat cream and vanilla until stiff peaks form; fold into cooled egg yolk mixture. Stir in raspberry purée and remaining fresh raspberries. Line separate 9-x-5-inch loaf pan with enough parchment paper to leave overhang on all sides. Pour raspberry semifreddo into pan. Smooth top; cover with foil and freeze for 2 hours.

White Chocolate Semifreddo

Meanwhile, in heatproof bowl, whisk egg yolks and sugar until smooth; place bowl over saucepan of barely simmering water (bowl should not touch water), whisking constantly until thickened, about 8 minutes. Let cool at room temperature for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in medium bowl, using electric mixer on medium speed, beat cream until stiff peaks form. Using spatula, gently fold in melted chocolate, then stir in cooled egg mixture and almonds.

Pour over raspberry semifreddo in pan. Smooth top, cover and freeze for at least 4 hours or overnight. (Make-ahead: can be frozen for up to 7 days.)

Place reserved almond cake on serving platter. Unmould semifreddo and place in centre of cake. Using sharp knife, cut away edges of cake to make even with semifreddo. Sprinkle with toasted sliced almonds and white chocolate shavings.

Brownie & Coconut Cream Layer Cake

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 18 SERVINGS

Brownie

- 1½ cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- ½ cup ground almonds
- ⅓ cup sifted cocoa powder
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup unsalted butter, melted
- ¼ cup coconut milk
- 75 g (2½ oz) dark chocolate, melted

Coconut Cake

- ½ cup unsalted butter, softened
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup coconut oil, melted
- ½ tsp vanilla
- 1⅓ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp baking soda
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ cup coconut milk
- ½ cup shredded coconut, toasted

Coconut Cream

- 2½ cups 35% whipping cream
- 1½ cups coconut milk
- ¾ cup custard powder
- ⅓ cup granulated sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla

Chocolate Ganache

- 140 g (5 oz) milk chocolate, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp unsalted butter
- ¼ cup 35% whipping cream
- ¼ cup chopped pecans
- Shredded coconut, toasted

DIRECTIONS

Brownie

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Line two 13-x-9-inch cake pans with enough parchment paper to leave overhang on all sides; set aside. In bowl, combine graham cracker crumbs, coconut, ground almonds, cocoa powder, sugar and salt. Stir in butter, coconut milk and chocolate. Pour batter into one of the reserved cake pans, smoothing top. Bake until tester inserted in centre comes out clean, about 20 minutes. Let cool on rack. (Make-ahead: can be refrigerated for up to 4 days or stored in airtight container and frozen for up to 2 months.)

Coconut Cake

Meanwhile, in large bowl, using electric mixer on medium speed, beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in oil and vanilla; set aside. In separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; stir into reserved butter mixture alternately with coconut milk. Mix in shredded coconut. Spread batter evenly in remaining prepared cake pan. Bake until tester inserted in centre comes out clean, 22 to 25 minutes. Let cool completely on rack; refrigerate until ready to use.

Coconut Cream

In saucepan, whisk together cream, coconut milk, custard powder, sugar and vanilla; cook over medium heat, whisking, until thickened, 10 to 12 minutes. Strain through fine sieve placed over bowl. Cover surface directly with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or up to overnight.

Chocolate Ganache

Meanwhile, place chocolate and butter in heatproof bowl. In small saucepan, bring cream to boil; pour over chocolate mixture. Let stand for 2 minutes; whisk until smooth and shiny. Refrigerate just until ganache is thickened, about 45 minutes.

Gently remove Brownie from pan and transfer to cutting board; cut into two 9-x-5-inch rectangles (reserve scraps for another use). Repeat with Coconut Cake. Using electric mixer on medium speed, beat Coconut Cream until smooth. On serving dish, place 1 Brownie rectangle. Spread with one-third of the Coconut Cream, then top with 1 rectangle of Coconut Cake. Spread another third of the Coconut Cream overtop and place remaining rectangle of Brownie on top. Spread last third of Coconut Cream, then top with Coconut Cake. Refrigerate until cream is firm, about 1 hour.

Using electric mixer on medium speed, beat Chocolate Ganache until stiff peaks form, about 4 minutes. Frost top of cake. Sprinkle with pecans and toasted coconut.

tip

Custard powder helps to set custards, puddings and fillings. It's available in the baking section of most grocery stores.





▶ Holiday Stripe **BAKER**, \$45, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

▼ Ceramic **BOWL**, \$48, Goye, goye.ca.



▲ Guzzini **CAKE STAND**, \$62, Linen Chest, linenchest.com.



▶ Tree-pattern **PLATE**, \$5, Linen Chest, linenchest.com.



◀ Wave white wine **GLASS**, \$15, CB2, cb2.ca.

shopping

▼ Tree **RAMEKINS**, \$15, set of 2, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.



◀ Villeroy & Boch's Boston **GLASS**, \$20, William Ashley, williamashley.com.



▲ Artois **PITCHER**, \$42, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

▶ Thero **BAKING DISH**, \$45, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.



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DRESSED FOR DINNER

Rise to the occasion with a table that sets the stage for celebration.

STYLING CAROLINA AUZ | PHOTOGRAPHY TANGO



Black and white **VASE**, \$60, Crate and Barrel. Perforated ceramic **TREE**, \$17, porcelain **TREES** on bases, \$20, HomeSense.

BE BOLD

Black, white and a bit of shine set a sophisticated table that will serve as a chic, elegant backdrop for a special meal. A modern floral arrangement of roses and cedar provides a seasonal hit of green.

Black Caviar **DINNER PLATES**, \$19 each; white and black Ink **DINNER PLATES**, \$15 each; white and black Ink **SALAD PLATES**, \$9 each; small black Caviar **BOWL** (shown with bread), \$6; **WINEGLASSES**, \$22 each; **TABLECLOTH**, \$30; **NAPKINS**, \$4 each; Linen Chest. Osk **TRAY**, \$150; metal **PLACEMATS**, \$25 each; stainless-steel Kenton **CUTLERY**, \$65, set of 5 pieces; Crate and Barrel. Chrome **BOWL** (shown with mini Christmas balls), \$27, **CANDLE HOLDER**, \$24, West Elm. **MINI CHRISTMAS BALLS**, \$10 for 36, HomeSense.



Fir **TREES** on bases, \$20, woollen **TREE**, \$17, HomeSense. Brass **DRAGONFLY**, \$29, West Elm. Pearlized **GARLAND**, \$30, Indigo.

ADD LUSTRE

Give a golden glow to your table with lustrous finishes and muted pastels that are soft and light, like freshly fallen snow. Graphic patterns create a modern feel, while accents like a dragonfly and bottlebrush trees bring whimsy.

Blue **DINNER PLATES**, \$14 each; abstract-pattern **SOUP PLATES**, \$22 each; polka-dot **SALAD PLATES**, \$18 each; **TABLE RUNNER**, \$45; stoneware **VASE**, \$39; small pink marble **BOWL** with brass base, \$29; blue **NAPKINS**, \$57, set of 4; gold and ivory **NAPKIN**, \$53, set of 4; West Elm. Orange porcelain **SALAD PLATES**, \$18 each, Atelier Make. Pearl-finish **PLACEMATS**, \$27 each; **CHEESE BELL** with wood and marble top, \$90; gold-finish stainless-steel Ellenore **CUTLERY**, \$90, set of 5 pieces; brass **NAPKIN RINGS**, \$8 each; Crate and Barrel. **WINEGLASSES**, \$60, set of 4; **CHEESE KNIVES**, \$30, set of 4 pieces; Linen Chest.



Minimalist or traditionalist, this year, we are all going a little bit country with our holiday decor. Let country chic, with its natural elements and handmade touches, bring on-trend charm and warmth to your home for the holidays. **TEXT** KARL LOHNES



Holiday Trend

COUNTRY CHIC



Modern shapes and natural materials set a contemporary country mood on a table ideal for entertaining.

Terra natural wood **DINING TABLE**, from \$2,500, crateandbarrel.ca.

A mid-century-modern-style keepsake for the mantel or coffee table suits a contemporary setting.

Kotori decorative walnut **BIRD**, \$150, ligne-roset.com.



MINIMALIST

Adorn a tree, string across a mantel, or display in a clear bowl for an easy centrepiece.

Instyle's Cozy Cabin **ORNAMENTS**, \$36, set of 20, homehardware.ca.



Destined to be a classic holiday keepsake, shearling will also be a big trend throughout 2022.

Shorn white 48" sheepskin **TREE SKIRT**, \$349, cb2.ca.

Home sweet holiday home! This lantern is a bright idea for a hostess gift.

Canvas Frame **HOUSE LANTERN**, \$25, canadiantire.ca.

Stoneware adds an instant country-casual vibe to a festive holiday dining table.

Mayne **DINNERWARE**, \$120, set of 16 pieces, urbanbarn.com.



Space between this tree's branches lets you show off your tree ornaments.

Vickerman's Bedrock Pine **CHRISTMAS TREE**, 7' high, \$980, bedbathandbeyond.ca.





Pale copper is a key fashion colour this season.

Glass Orb **TREE ORNAMENT**, \$7, thebay.com.

Want a scent of an authentic burning fire? This will light up your life!

Diptyque's Feu de Bois scented **CANDLE**, \$92, holtrenfrew.com.



Country plaid and faux fur make a handsome stocking. Just add presents.

GlucksteinHome's Cabin Plaid faux shearling **CHRISTMAS STOCKING**, \$20, thebay.com.



Welcome your guests with a sweet hello.
Gingerbread house **DOORMAT**, \$68, anthropologie.com.

TRADITIONALIST

Clean-lined scalloped-edge dinnerware is at home in modern or traditional dining rooms.

Chelsea white **DINNER PLATE**, \$28, cb2.ca.



The children – and everyone else – will be nestled all snug in their beds with cozy new sheets.

Christmas Stocking flannel **SHEET SET**, from \$25, simons.ca.



Add a candle to brighten an entrance or mantel, or fill with fresh greens for a festive centrepiece.

Canvas's Antler Dome **CANDLE HOLDER**, \$30, canadiantire.ca.



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a nordic holiday

A mix of nostalgic keepsakes, home-baked treats and modern design helps dress a home in festive finery.

TEXT PIA OLSEN AND KATHLEEN DORE
PHOTOGRAPHY ANITTA BEHRENDT



“My Christmas begins in October,” says Danish jewellery designer Julie Wettergren. That’s when she and her children, Conrad, 10, and Telma, 7, start baking holiday treats from her grandmother’s recipes. “Christmas baking is a tradition I love,” she says. “It gives me quality time with my family, away from all technology and iPads.” The treats are so plentiful and fanciful, they serve as part of the holiday decor in the Hellerup, Denmark, home Julie shares with husband Christopher Andersson, their children, and dog (aptly named Holly). But that’s just the beginning. Pine cones, mosses and branches are collected from nearby woods, and treasured family ornaments are lovingly displayed on a living tree that will eventually be planted in their backyard. “I love to remember my childhood when I bring out our Christmas decorations,” says Julie, adding that they now have a small backyard forest containing their previous trees. “That includes the tree from our very first Christmas here,” she says. “So, December is a very nostalgic time, where we’re also creating new memories as a family.”

THESE PAGES Every year, Julie Wettergren holds a dinner party for her girlfriends. This year, dusty mauve carnations bring subtle colour to the mostly grey tabletop accents, including smoke-coloured wineglasses and elegant tapers. Evergreen branches, pine cones and clematis seed heads wind their way down the centre of the table, which was built by Julie’s father. New Eames chairs look at home in their Nordic surroundings. Julie baked perfect tiny gingerbread houses that she propped on the lip of each porcelain cup. The cups sit atop coasters of wood for a fine balance between formal and rustic.





THIS PAGE (CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE) The living tree still has its tiny cones attached. It's also laden with ornaments from Julie's childhood, as well as new ones. Each year, she splurges on just one expensive ornament that the children hang on the tree, creating memories they'll one day recall. The table is packed with home baking that looks almost too good to eat...almost. Julie stands in front of a gallery wall of new art and old sketches. A wooden sleigh from her father's childhood holds a display of presents wrapped in a mix of leftover wallpaper and new gift wrap.

OPPOSITE A collection of mirrors, mostly found on eBay, is crowned with fragrant ever-green branches gathered from the nearby woods by Julie and her kids. The family pooch, Holly, guards the holiday baking – at least while the picture was being taken. Julie doesn't overlook any detail: she used tiered plates and cake stands to create a multi-layered display on the coffee table, and fitted the homemade gingerbread house with battery-powered lights that give a warm glow.





“It’s a need I have, to surround myself with beautiful things.”

THIS PAGE In the primary bedroom, soft shades of grey and brown create a soothing palette, while sheepskin and velvet add texture and a sumptuous feel. Though the striped wallpaper is classic and modern, the industrial-style articulated-arm sconce has a retro edginess. Artwork in the room was collected from the couple’s travels to Italy, France and around Denmark. A lush pine bough brings a subtle holiday touch. On the nightstand, a delicately veined leaf bowl serves as a beautiful landing spot for a collection of jewellery designed by Julie.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK





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I have fine, thin hair and have tried numerous volume improving items. In the 5 months I have been taking this vitamin, I have DEFINITELY noticed an improvement in my hair volume and appearance. It was in my Christmas list and my mom was intrigued so she got it for herself, too. She wears her hair very short, and she said she saw improvement within a month.

- Web Review

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*"Evaluation of a functional food on the quality of the hairs on a panel of volunteers", Study 15E3405, Longjumeau, France. 12.Oct.2018



The Duke of Decoupage shares his love of classic vintage-style holiday decor and how to deck the halls like it's 1899. **TEXT** KARL LOHNES



John Derian is a maker of things. He established his eponymous company in 1989 and now employs a staff to assist in the making of his vintage-inspired creations. Today, his shops and online retail site are where to go for new and antique home decor items, as well as art, antiques and furniture. John's love of traditional holiday decor is evident in the decoupage and ornaments he designs. We spoke to him about those collections and how to incorporate traditional holiday style into our homes.

KL: What inspires you the most when designing holiday decor items?

JD: I do love the 19th century, so, true to form, I love all that classical decor. For holiday-related decoupage, I always look for iconic imagery, something to bring warmth and cheer, something to display, celebrate and cherish. I'm most inspired by images of ever-green trees, holly and classic Santa images.

KL: Do you have a favourite ornament that you have created - a holiday classic?

JD: I design decoupage ornaments, but I also

John Derian



John Derian (left) is a more-is-more kind of guy. A bowl of mega-ornaments (above) and a feather tree (opposite) are part of his personal collection.

sell hand-blown and hand-painted glass ornaments, so I must say it's a toss-up between a pickle and a mushroom. The pickle is a German tradition. Usually, you would hide a pickle on the tree for others to find – larger ones for smaller children and smaller ones for older people. I go to a trade show every year in Germany and most vendors have varying pickle styles, so now we probably have 30 different

pickle styles. Mushrooms are a favourite thing of mine in general – whether they be papier mâché, cement, ceramic or wooden, I gravitate towards them. There is something so magical about them. A few vendors were making mushroom ornaments and then, like the pickles, I kept finding more. This year, I'm going to display probably 50 different mushrooms on one big tree in the shop.

KL: The classic holiday colours are red, green, gold and silver. Do you have another colour that you like to add to the mix – something unconventional to wake up the traditional colours?

JD: Pink and red is my favourite holiday colour combo. I love how pink softens the red. I use this combo when wrapping gifts with paper and beautiful ribbons, too. Wrap a gift with some red vintage-looking paper, add a big pink satin ribbon and a sprig of green, and you're done. And it looks custom – how easy!

KL: For many people who live in small spaces, a full-size tree is not an option. What other focal points could you create?

JD: You can decorate your whole room with swags and balls – your bookshelves, cabinets, hallways, stairs, windows. Basically, where



John Derian is drawn to 19th-century printed images (left). Pickles and mushrooms (below) for Christmas: who knew?

can't you decorate? A large wreath could be hung overtop a gold mirror or centred in a window and be just as effective as a tree.

KL: Let's chat tabletop: how can we update our classic, and a tad boring, china that gets brought out every holiday?

JD: Colourful glasses and table linens can easily change the look of your china. Pick one of the more subtly used colours in the china and explode it on the table with accessories. Adding flowers or berries, laying Christmas garlands flat around the table, using ornaments as napkin rings or placeholders, the list goes on. Use what you have, invest in a few seasonal accessories and then add beauty from nature to the table.

KL: Traditional decorating seems to be gaining in popularity. What will make it different than how it looked before?

JD: It's all in how you mix your pieces. Mixing classic and new takes a little balancing. Add to what you have. Add new things you love. Do what makes you happy and it will show. Keeping your colours in tune with each other is the easiest way to ensure a harmonious look when mixing in traditional items. And consider that what you add now will become your future heirlooms.



KL: How would someone who loves modern incorporate vintage memorabilia or inherited ornaments into their decor?

JD: There are no rules when decorating the tree; it is its own country and can live anywhere. Obviously, you can match your tree to your decor. Do a themed one, a mid-century one, etc. Anything can work as long as you like it and it evokes great stories or memories.

KL: Speaking of memories, do you have holiday memories that have influenced the design of your holiday products?

JD: I think more is more when designing and decorating; however, I do love a simple silver ball, whether new or antique. Something about its mirror-like qualities attracts me. I have a collection of small and large kugels that I hang throughout my apartment. As children, my siblings and I were immersed in holiday decor and that's now reflected in my shops. Every year, we would decorate as a family, taking turns pretending to be the Christmas tree by hiding behind it and talking to our guests – as if we were fooling anyone into thinking the tree was really talking!



Vintage and vintage-inspired ornaments – quirky and traditional alike – are *de rigueur* at John Derian Company.



the tops in TREES

PHOTOGRAPHY TANGO
STYLING JULIE LAPOINTE

Classic, vintage
and high-drama
modern, our
three trimmed
trees will dazzle
and delight.





Candy Cane Dreams

Classic red and white with green brings automatic holiday cheer. What could be more festive than a candy-cane colour scheme? A mix of matte and glittery red balls, a pompom garland and branches of artificial berries repeat red round shapes but in different sizes and with subtle shade variations. Add other red ornaments for interest, then layer in a red-and-white tree skirt, and cushions and throws for coziness.

Artificial **TREE** with 250 LED lights, 5' high, \$360; large red metal **BELL** (on floor), \$23; artificial **BERRY BRANCHES**, from \$4; small **BIRDS** on clips, \$8, set of 4; felt and wood **SNOWFLAKES**, \$7 each; glass **PINE CONES**, \$5 each; Véronneau. Plaid **CUSHION COVER**, \$40; **TREE SKIRT**, \$60; wool pompom **GARLAND**, \$30; Indigo. Wooden **NUTCRACKERS**, \$15 (with the purchase of a natural tree), set of 6, Bôsapin. Shatter-proof red Christmas **BALLS**, \$13, set of 34; metal **CAR**, \$35; Rona. Felt **MICE**, \$16 each; **GARLAND** of metal candy canes (on wall), \$70; Boutique Aux Mirabelles. Ash **ARMCHAIR**, \$499, Structube. **GIFT BOXES**, from \$7 each; round Santa **GIFT BOX**, \$7; **THROW** (on chair), \$35; HomeSense.



Sweet & Simple

A holiday that puts nature on display is one worth celebrating! A real tree is a beautiful thing. Show it off with Scandi-style candles and dried citrus slices for a vintage feel. Brown paper packages tied up with string (or ribbon) and a few accessories made with natural materials keeps the mood pared back and pretty. These are a few of our favourite things!

Natural balsam fir **TREE**, 6' high, \$58, Bôsapin. Leaf-motif **CURTAIN**, \$25, Simons. Pine and metal **SIDE TABLE**, \$328, VdeV. Wood fir **TREES** (on table and floor), \$25 each, HomeSense. Wood and wool **TREES**, \$6 (small) and \$10 (large), Boutique Kozy. Knit Christmas **BALLS**, \$15 each; battery-operated **CANDLES**, \$70, set of 12; Boutique Aux Mirabelles. Dried **ORANGE SLICES**, \$21, 100 g (30 to 35 slices), Fresh Dried.









Dressed in Black

Are you drawn to drama? Our chic black and gold tree is opulent but not over the top. Adherence to the tight palette keeps it from being excessive. The variety of ornaments in different shapes, sizes and finishes – matte, shiny and sparkly – creates visual rhythm and a push-pull tension. Imagine this tree in a front window, dazzling passersby. In our books, all that glitters is gold.

Artificial **TREE** with 600 lights, 7D' high, \$470; **BRANCHES** with golden leaves, \$11 to \$20 each; **GOLDEN FLOWERS** and **STEMS** with black and gold textured balls, \$7 to \$10 each; Centre de Jardin Floréal. Black Christmas **BALLS**, \$13, set of 2 (one shiny, one matte); large golden Christmas **BALL** (on floor), \$33; Véronneau. Black Christmas **BALLS** with white patterns, \$8 each; wooden **NUTCRACKERS**, \$3 each; metal and frosted-glass **LANTERNS**, \$10 (small), \$17 (large); Boutique Kozy. Black **REINDEER**, \$25 (small), \$30 (large); black **REINDEER** with gold antlers, \$15; small round pompom **GIFT BOX**, \$7; HomeSense. Metal and glass **LANTERNS**, \$30 (small), \$50 (large), Michaels.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Festive

& Fanciful

Turn the tables on typical holly-berry red with a holiday tablescape inspired by the humble pomegranate.

TEXT PIA OLSEN AND KATHLEEN DORE

PHOTOGRAPHY ANITTA BEHRENDT | STYLING JULIE WETTERGREN





OPPOSITE “I am typically Danish when it comes to candles,” admits jewellery designer Julie Wettergren. “There must be many. To me, candles equal coziness, Christmas and atmosphere.” Variety is key to creating a compelling tabletop. She gave height to the pomegranate-themed tablescape by building a centerpiece of tall tapers in candle holders of different heights. Varying the tones of red, from light pink to dark garnet, was also key to creating interest.

THIS PAGE A flower-shaped glass dish inherited from her grandmother captured the exact pink Julie discerned in the pomegranate. “The flower was a thing that stood out at my grandmother’s home, and I am reminded of my visits to her when I see it,” she says. Julie layered in interest by mixing shades of red in objects of different sizes and shapes, ensuring she incorporated reflective surfaces. Even the water is part of the decor. “Pomegranate seeds give a delicate taste and a beautiful colour,” says Julie.

Danish jewellery designer Julie Wettergren treats her tabletop like an artist’s canvas – a place to explore how colour, pattern and texture can be combined for a beautiful composition. As with any artist, she doesn’t create the same thing twice. Working with white china and gold-tone cutlery, Julie adds glassware and accents in different colourways to create entirely new tablescapes (see page 32 for another of her tabletops). Here, the theme is based on Julie’s love of pomegranates, which she became fascinated with during her travels in India. “If you look at a pomegranate, it’s not just red,” says Julie. “It goes from dark red to light pink, and those are the colours I wanted to work with.” A cool grey cloth contrasts the warm reds, many introduced through her use of vintage and new glassware. “Glass is more light and airy than if I’d used ceramics,” she says. Here’s how Julie layered her favourite objects to create a setting that dazzles and delights.



“I have used vintage vases and decorations, all of which contain a story and mean something very special to me. Some things I inherited from my grandmother, and others I have from my childhood home. That way, it has also become a very personal table.”



LEFT On each plate, Julie has placed a magical-looking edible gingerbread house in a small glass. “It is super sweet and very Christmasy,” she says, noting that the brown and white colours of the gingerbread complement the warm reds of the scheme. The snowy base is made of coconut and meringue. “The kids and I have a tradition of baking gingerbread houses,” says Julie. “We start making the dough one weekend; it can easily stay in the fridge, and then we bake it the weekend after. Then it will probably take another week before we put the cake pieces together and decorate them. It is a long, cozy project, and the cakes can easily last all of December.”

ABOVE Julie used whole and halved pomegranates as part of the centerpiece. “The cut fruits can easily lie there and look nice for an entire evening,” she says. “They get a little dry in the end, but then you can cut the dry part off and use the rest afterwards.” Bouquets of dried hydrangeas from her garden are given gravitas with black stems that also lend height and texture.

BELOW “Dried orange slices are great to decorate with when your cakes need to look festive,” says Julie. “I first baked the orange slices in a convection oven for three hours at 90 degrees [Fahrenheit],” says Julie. She attached the cooled slices to a layered cake frosted with buttercream. The small flowers are also made of buttercream, garnished with a single freeze-dried cranberry. Julie made the caramelized skewers for the tree-like spires that sit atop the cake by skewering a hazelnut, dipping it in melted sugar, and then letting it set into a tall spire. The vintage glass bowls are heirlooms.

FOR SOURCES,
SEE OUR WORKBOOK

RIGHT, TOP & BOTTOM Julie used candy canes and melted chocolate to make these holiday “sweethearts.” She placed two candy canes in a heart shape atop white and pink chocolate, and then baked them at 100°F for two minutes until the chocolate melted. She then sprinkled the chocolate with freeze-dried raspberries. The glass dish is vintage, the Murano glass vase is an heirloom and the tablecloth is simply a piece of fabric. Below, she topped store-bought muffins with a homemade gingerbread snowflake. “I like to put my own stamp on things,” she says. “It makes me happy, and then I also like to please others with it, especially my kids.”



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DECEMBER 2021



NATURAL STYLE

Holiday decorating doesn't have to be complicated. Simplicity combined with a healthy respect for Mother Nature is, for some, a less stressful approach to marking the holidays. A live tree that can be planted outdoors, an armful of greenery from the nursery and a cheerful bowl of pomegranates on the table might be all you need to mark the festive season - that and your loved ones sitting side by side. That's something to celebrate!

SISTER ACT



In Burnaby, B.C., designer Tanya Krpan creates a holiday-ready home for a very special client. **TEXT** BETHANY LYTTLE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JANIS NICOLAY



“Sometimes you meet a client for the first time and it feels like you’ve known them your whole life,” says Tanya Krpan. “But in this case, that was the truth!” She’s talking about her sister, Melina Maieler, who, with Melina’s husband, Mike, asked Tanya to renovate their home – not just for year-round living, but for Christmas, too. With four boys, ages one to eight, the couple hoped for joy-filled holidays in a home with stylish furnishings that would last. “For both the Christmas decor and the home overall, the look is very Melina and Mike – soft neutrals with rich touches of black, cranberry, spruce and caramel,” says Tanya. “I call it ‘Neutral with a touch of zazz!’”



All aglow

THESE PAGES Opening presents, taking family pictures by the tree, wearing matching PJs, lighting the fireplace and watching holiday movies – these are just a few of homeowner Melina Maierle’s favourite things about family time in the living room. And thanks to her sister, designer Tanya Krpan, everyone can snuggle on the massive modular sofa and ottoman, which are covered with durable fabric – a must with kids. Freshly snipped boughs scent the room, as does the tree, which was flocked for a snowy look. “Adding brass candlesticks and lights is always a win,” says Tanya. The black drapes are the home’s signature piece. “They bring an element of swish pizzazz,” she says. Layering three rugs provides a soft landing spot for tumbling boys.

DESIGN, custom **DRAPERY** and **ROMAN SHADES**, custom storage **CABINETRY**, Tanya Krpan Design. Cloud **SOFA** and **OTTOMAN**, RH. Sherpa **CHAIRS**, Inform. **RUGS**, McGee & Co and Woven Abode. **CANDLESTICKS**, Bella and Wren Home. **BASKET** (near fireplace), beaded **GARLAND** (on table), The Latest Scoop. **RIBBON** (on gifts), Etsy. **GREENERY** for garlands and accents (throughout home), West Coast Gardens; GardenWorks.

RIGHT Melina and husband Mike with Mason, 8, Jude, 5, Beau, 3, and Rome, 1. “I love the ‘alive-ness’ and smell of the tree and garland at the height of the season,” says Melina.

CUSHIONS (on sofa), Lulu and Georgia; Amber Interiors; Anthropologie; Crate and Barrel. **WREATH**, Vivio Flowers.



OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT “As we decorate the tree, the older kids are quick to remind Mike and me not to hang glass ornaments on the lower branches where Rome could break them,” says Melina.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT “Opening stockings before gifts was a tradition when Tanya and I were little. We’re carrying that on,” says Melina.

BELOW “Under the tree, but not over the top,” says Tanya of the vintage ribbons and berries on the packages.

RIGHT Sprigs of green throughout the home echo the year-round palette of rich natural hues, including greens, browns and reds.





Boughs so green

LEFT Tanya removed a wall to create a marble-lined serving station that's perfect for cocoa pouring. It's a convenient place for serving drinks and setting dirty dishes aside. The reeded oak cabinets are stocked and ready for entertaining. Even the wall art is draped in yuletide style.

OPPOSITE Holiday meals are served under the glow of snowball-shaped pendants while diners are seated on snowdrift-curved chairs. The counter is table-height – so much safer for little ones. “It’s easier for kids to climb onto chairs than stools,” says Tanya. Looking fittingly frosty at this time of year are reeded glass cabinet doors.

CABINETRY, Kitchen Art Design. **COUNTERTOPS**, Caesarstone. Eames **CHAIRS**, Contemporary Office Interiors. **PENDANT LIGHTS**, Allied Maker. **ART** (over serving area), Zoe Pawlak. **PITCHER, FOOTED BLOCK**, Monika Hibbs Home. **GLASSWARE** (in serving area), Crate and Barrel.





Before opening the presents, it's waffle time, and everybody joins in. Sprigs of rosemary in a culinary wreath impart their aroma to the busy kitchen. "I love how classic the brass band on the black metal range hood looks when highlighted with holiday greens," says Tanya.

RANGE, Wolf. **CABINETRY HARDWARE**, Rejuvenation. **WREATH**, Vivio Flowers.

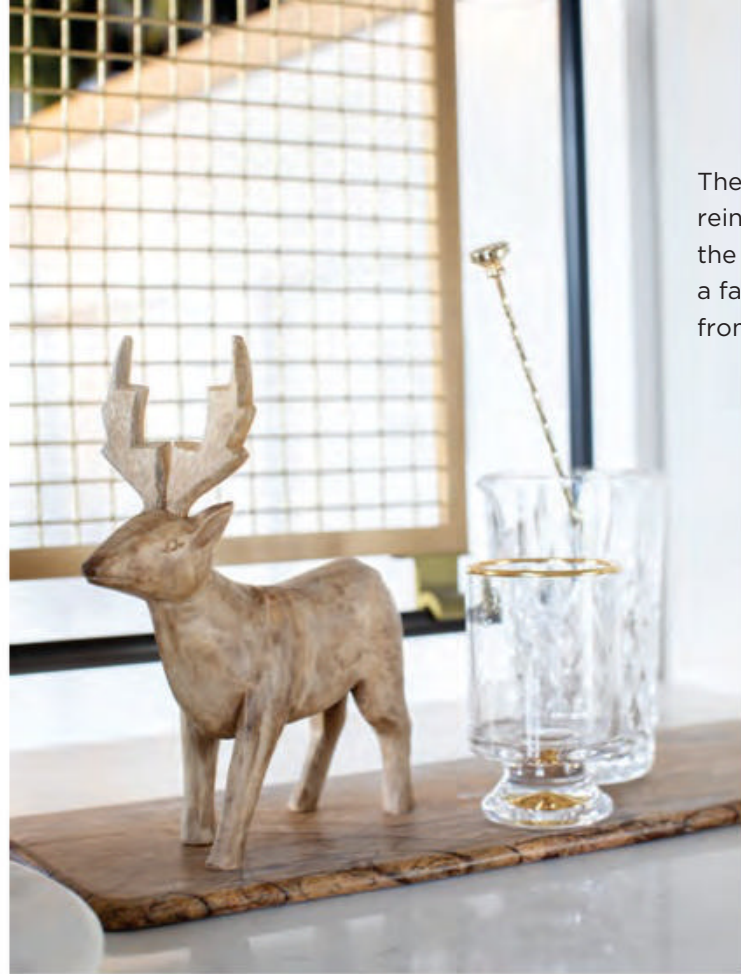


ABOVE Cinnamon and rosemary are ready for cookie baking with the boys. Melina's tip? Use a kit that includes precut cookies, icing and decorations, and serve them on themed Christmas plates.

DESSERT PLATES, Pottery Barn.

BELOW A brass bell and earthy bowls look festive, not fussy. At dessert time, the boys grab their own little Christmas tree spoons.

Amber Interiors faceted **BOWLS**, Anthropologie.



The wooden reindeer isn't from the North Pole. He's a family souvenir from the Bahamas!

On Dasher!



ABOVE A shimmering nutcracker soldier guards marshmallow treats for all!
PEDESTAL PLATE, Target.



Oh, Christmas tree!

OPPOSITE When they tiptoe into the dining room to look at the tree, the boys enter a magical world. “I treated this room like a little jewel box. It’s its own thing,” says Tanya. There’s fun dotted wallpaper and dramatic black drapes, and an opalescent glass chandelier that glows like the moon. The smooth mango wood credenza and white oak table layer in a natural warmth.

DINING TABLE, Inform. **DINING CHAIRS**, Industry West. **BUFFET**, 122 West. **CHANDELIER**, Rejuvenation. Custom **DRAPERY**, Tanya Krpan Design. **WALLPAPER**, Drop It Mod. **GARLAND** (over door), West Coast Gardens. **WREATH**, Vivio Flowers. **BAR CART**, RH. **VASES** (on buffet), Garden Works and 18karat.

RIGHT “Mike and Melina needed more surface space for serving,” explains Tanya. A hammered-iron bar cart with marble shelves that can be dressed up for the holidays does the trick.

BELOW Hobnail glass is a 3-D take on the wallpaper’s dots.





Sleigh bells ring

OPPOSITE “The garlands and wreaths may be traditional, but they’re simplified. Nothing in the home is overdone,” says Tanya. The boys’ raucous shoe tying and boot pulling takes place on a white oak bench. The throw introduces a little cranberry-hued pizzazz.

BENCH, Full House Modern. **THROW**, One Wednesday. **BELLS** (on wreath), Monika Hibbs Home. **WREATH**, Vivio Flowers. **GREENERY** (for garlands), West Coast Gardens; Gardenworks.

BELOW “These chairs make you feel like you’re being hugged!” says Tanya. They’re sherpa wool, and they’re for Mike and Melina only – the boys’ zone is the sofa,” she says, laughing. The lamp (with an art clamp) illuminates work by a Vancouver artist.

ART ON PEDESTAL, artist Chelsey Hornsby.



ABOVE A main-floor powder room is a big plus for a big family. Tanya treated her sister Melina to pretty blush-toned tile walls and gorgeous terrazzo floors. Says Tanya: “In a house full of boys, I wanted to give Melina something a little bit feminine.”

TILE, Cle Tile. **MIRROR**, CB2.

Snug in their beds



OPPOSITE Baby Rome awakens eager to play with the “big kids” downstairs by the tree. Scents of an orange-slice garland fill his room. When Melina lifts him up and out, he pads across a fluffy 1960s rug that belonged to his grandmother. At nap time, he’ll have sweet green dreams thanks to the room’s comforting deep spruce wall.

PRINT (over crib), The Animal Print Shop. **LAMP** (on table near crib), Target. **BEDDING** and **CUSHION** (in crib), Pottery Barn Kids.

BELOW 'Tis the season for Mason and Jude to don Christmas PJs, open advent calendars, and curl up with holiday storybooks (maybe Roch Carrier’s classic, *The Hockey Sweater*). Tanya set the scene with plaid bedding, festive sheets and a pompom garland. “All year, their room combines storage and display for their hockey gear, toys and medals,” she says, referring to the cubbies. “But for Christmas, I added a wreath adorned with Lego blocks and a peace sign.”

PLAID BEDDING, Pottery Barn Kids. **WALL DECALS**, Urban Wall Decals. **PEACE SIGN**, Pottery Barn Kids.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



This year-round getaway
in Quebec's Eastern
Townships is warm and
welcoming all winter long.

Cabin Fever

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT | PHOTOGRAPHY MONIC RICHARD | STYLING NICOLA MARC

The front hall feels as warm as a mug of hot chocolate thanks to the abundance of beautifully burnished wood, which was salvaged from a barn in the Eastern Townships and added during a renovation in the 2000s. The owners painted the once-pink walls white for an airy feel that keeps the rustic wood the focal point. Some sprigs of greenery on the banister, a vase of narcissi and an array of wrapped presents signal the festive season.

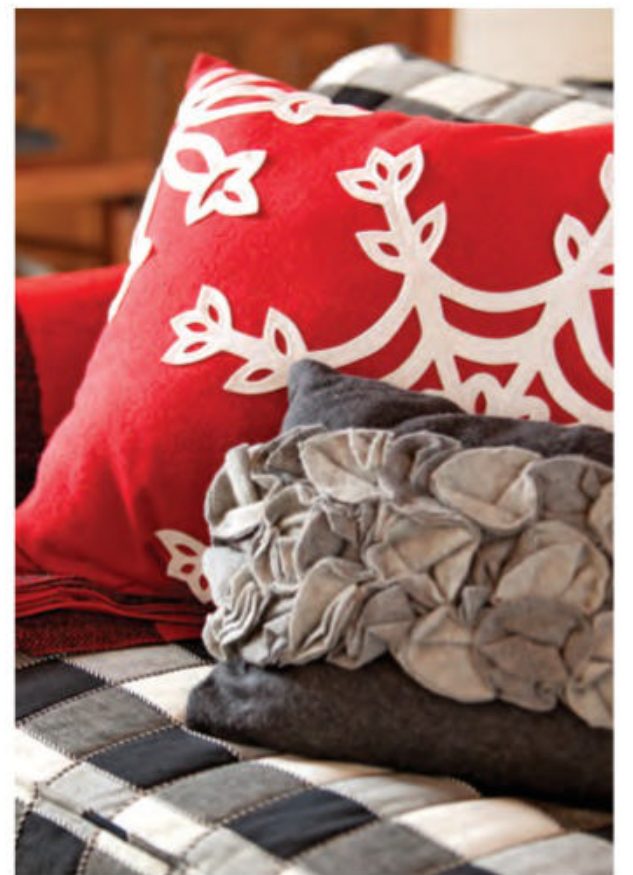
During the holidays, this home in Lac Brome, Que., is suffused with all the jolliness of an old-fashioned Christmas card. There's a fire roaring in the grate, the mantel is festooned with greenery and stockings, and wrapped presents appear at almost every turn. It's an atmosphere the homeowners, a Montreal-based couple with a blended family, adore. "At this time of year, we want to make the house magical," says one of the owners. "It's really important that it looks like Christmas." Every holiday, she relies on traditional decor to get the look. "I've used the same ornaments for 20 years," she says, "and always a classic red and green palette." Her imaginative deployment of decorations feels spot-on festive, helping to convey the magic they desire. It's an ambience only furthered by two of the family's other annual traditions: Bing Crosby carolling on the CD player and the scent of Christmas cookies, made from Grandmother's recipe, wafting from the kitchen.



Originally built in 1916, the 2,000-square-foot home's charming facade features natural river stones. "I was drawn to them and their unique architectural character," says one of the homeowners. For Christmas, simple greens and some flashes of high-spirited red set a merry tone.



“For me, Christmas is traditional: always a natural tree and stockings hung by the fire.”





The owner reupholstered the living room sofas, which came with the house, in her favourite monochromatic pattern. "I love black and white checks for traditional country decor," she says. "I also didn't want any colours taking away from all the beautiful wood detailing." A garland of freshly cut cedar dresses up the mantel, where

red and green stockings are hung (by the chimney with care!). Delicate glass ornaments in a bowl make for an easy coffee-table centerpiece that radiates holiday cheer, while red snowflake cushions layer in a fun, all-out Christmas vibe.





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get the look



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1 Comfify cast-iron antlers wall **HOOK**, \$20, Amazon. 2 Faux greenery **GARLAND**, \$85, Amara. 3 The Holiday Aisle knit **STOCKING**, \$56, Wayfair. 4 Andover Mills **TABLE**, \$870, Wayfair. 5 Fonta Bamboo Art **BOTTLE**, \$56, ebuy7. 6 **CUSHION COVER**, \$10, Walmart. 7 **FIREPLACE TOOLS**, \$60, Canadian Tire.



The corner banquette, tucked between the stone fireplace and window, is a coveted après-ski spot. Placing a hot-chocolate station within reach cranks up the coziness.



The dining table becomes the natural backdrop for an inspired holiday tableau. Tiny lidded pots that harbour hot soup make each setting special, a mood furthered by the sweet chair details – each one boasts a sprig of greenery tied to a gift card and a guest’s first initial. A red ovenproof bowl filled with red and white ornaments plays up the table’s centrepiece, while a burst of freshly cut amaryllis, with seemingly custom red and

green veining, finishes the look. “Every year, I buy one or two new ornaments at Christmas markets, but always in the same reds or creams of my collection,” says the homeowner.

In the kitchen, individual servings of cake are presented in paper cups tied with ribbon – an à la carte festive feature in keeping with the jolly mood. Another throw layers in warmth.

WALL PAINT, Ivory Tusk OC-91,
Benjamin Moore. Red and white
CUSHIONS, HomeSense. TROWS,
Crate and Barrel. TABLECLOTH,
NAPKINS, Qui Dort Dine. MINI-
COCOTTES, Le Creuset. GREENERY,
FLOWERS, Fauchois Fleurs.

"I love cooking at Christmas. Turkey, homemade soups and always cookies."



“We have five boys in our family, and playing hockey on the lake is their favourite Christmas tradition.”



The magic of the home's interior extends to its idyllic setting in the middle of a peninsula blessed with memories-in-the-making views of the woods and water. At dusk, strings of twinkly lights and candlelit lanterns imbue the winter wonderland with a most welcoming, almost nostalgic, Christmas appeal.



FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



Season of LIGHT



A designer brings warmth
and sophistication to a Quebec
home – twice!

TEXT MARIE-HELÈNE GOULET AND KATHLEEN DORE
PHOTOGRAPHY DREW HADLEY | STYLING CAROLINA AUZ

THESE PAGES Designer Sophie Paiement-Lefebvre switched out blue accent walls for forest green in the entryway. “Blue with wood [on the barn door] was too cold,” says Sophie. Painting the ceiling in the same green makes the gold pendant pop. Hints of holiday decor begin here. “Natural branches from the woods add a rustic and warm touch that can stay all through the winter season, not just in the holidays,” says Sophie of the arrangement on the console. A wreath on the inside of the door is a surprise. “The natural green elements add a traditional touch,” she says. A garland on the kitchen range hood, which is visible from the entry, links the spaces.

DESIGN, Sophie Paiement-Lefebvre. **WREATH, CONSOLE, RUG**, Wayfair. **ART**, H&M Home. **PENDANT**, CDE Electric. **BARN DOOR** and **HARDWARE**, Richelieu Hardware.



W

elcoming and warm. That was the feeling the owner of this home in St-Jérôme, Que., wanted when she asked Sophie Paiement-Lefebvre to design its interior during the home’s construction in 2016. Fast-forward to 2021 and Sophie received the same brief for the same home, but this time to bring holiday decor to the bright, open-concept space. “The owner wanted people who visit to feel comfortable, as if they were returning to their family home,” says Sophie, who opted for a festive look plucked straight from nature. Fresh greenery and woodsy accents mix with more dressy holiday finery in whites, creams and gold. That mix mimics Sophie’s 2016 formula of rustic wood alongside clean-lined modern elements, all set against a white and stone-grey backdrop. It suits the owner’s relaxed approach to entertaining and everyday life, where friends are like family, and all are welcomed with warmth during the holidays and all year round.

BELOW Wood beams, hardwood flooring, panelling on the island and floating shelves foster a relaxed, welcoming country feel to the kitchen, but an on-trend patterned backsplash, modern bar stools and a clean-lined island ground the room in the present. “We wanted to create a warm, homey atmosphere, so the cooking area had to be the focal point of the room,” says Sophie. She custom-designed a black metal range hood that’s sophisticated and punctuates the room’s mostly white and wood palette. “Decorating it with fir and adding countertop accessories in wood and marble brings the area to the foreground at first glance,” says the designer.

BAR STOOLS, Bouclair. **KITCHEN CABINETRY**, Cuisirama. **BACKSPLASH**, ItalNord. **CLOCHE**, HomeSense. Custom **RANGE HOOD**, Soudure Normand.





THIS PAGE A wooden tree and cutting boards echo the other wood elements and flank the range, punctuating the room's focal point. "It's important to integrate holiday decorating with the home's existing architectural elements," says Sophie. On the island, LED lights sparkle in the reflections of glass ornaments under a cloche. Sophie mixed in greenery, including artificial eucalyptus and real fir branches, attaining a balance between sophisticated and natural touches, which defines her design direction throughout.







LEFT “Because the tree is so big, I decorated it with oversized ornaments,” says Sophie. “I wanted to get away from classic red and green, but wanted a festive holiday look, so I added gold and silver instead.” The dining room table was a lucky second-hand find, as are many of the tabletop accessories. Mismatched dining chairs suit the laid-back vibe.

TAPESTRY, Pia Metne Art.



THIS PAGE White-and-black patterned cushions add an extra layer of coziness to the soft grey sectional. The tight palette of white and grey is used throughout the house in finishes like the stone flooring in the entryway and the kitchen's quartz countertops. The brick fireplace was a request of the owner's. Sophie had it painted white. "My client wanted a retro-looking fireplace, so we built one with standard red bricks and grey mortar, but brush-painted everything white," she says.

SOFA, Maison Corbeil. **FIREPLACE INSERT**, Kozy Heat. **COFFEE TABLES**, **RUG**, Wayfair. **CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS**, HomeSense. Gold-tone **CUTLERY**, Amazon.



OPPOSITE "In an open-concept home, there should be similar finishing elements in your decorative choices to ensure continuity," says Sophie. "If the materials are used repeatedly, it reinforces an effect of openness and makes the home seem bigger."

White **STARS** (on tree), IKEA.



The dining room table was a lucky second-hand find, as are many of the tabletop accessories.

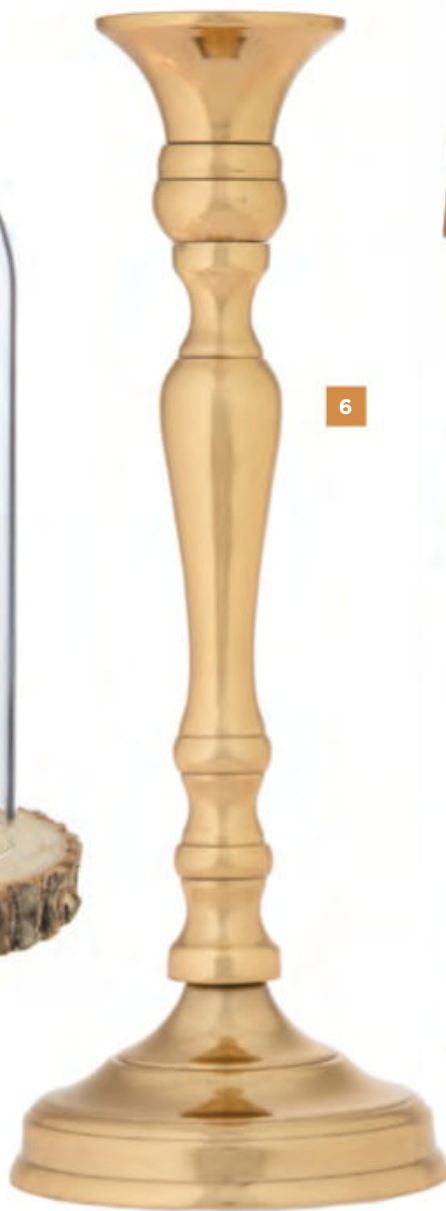




Get a wrap on holiday decor with a pretty pre-lit garland.



get the look




A cloche with a wooden base hits a rustic note.

1 Canvas Illuminated Artificial Cedar **GARLAND**, \$64, Canadian Tire. **2** Bridgetown extendable pine and pine veneer **DINING TABLE**, \$1,999, Urban Barn. **3** Emory **ARMCHAIR**, \$349, Mobilia. **4** Tiered **DESSERT TRAY**, \$40, Linen Chest. **5** **CLOCHE** with wooden base, \$20, Bouclair. **6** Gold-tone **CANDLESTICK**, \$35, Véronneau. **7** Gold-tone stainless-steel **CUTLERY**, \$36, set of 16 pieces, Kozy.

THESE PAGES A maple panelled wall in the primary bedroom creates a cozy ski chalet feel. Sophie found the two wreaths and star that hang over the bed at a thrift shop. She stripped off the existing garish elements and replaced them with fragrant homemade dried orange slices and aromatic eucalyptus to promote sweet dreams. Tiny trees on the night tables sport just a touch of flocking for a snowy look that – not coincidentally – ties the trees in with the white-meets-woody palette.

BEDSIDE TABLES, CUSHION, HomeSense. **BEDDING,** Zara Home. **RUG,** Wayfair.





The horizontal installation of the wood panelling reinforces the lines of the twin clerestory windows and also visually links to the beams in the living room.

A wintry palette of grey and white is calming in the primary ensuite. “In a bathroom, you need a peaceful energy,” says Sophie, who used a light hand with the festive decor. The trio of fallen birch logs propped in the corner was found on the property. Fairy lights give them a bit of holiday shine for a subtle festive feel. At the window, blinds open from both the top and the bottom sills, allowing in light while preserving privacy.

TUB, Costco. **TILES**, Ceragres. **PLUMBING**, Viau et Fils. **BATH TRAY**, Amazon.



THIS PAGE Sophie's trademark simple wreath on the inside of the ensuite's door has a Scandi simplicity, as do the flocked balsam branches. The all-white nutcracker was a fortuitous find. Says Sophie: "I was so lucky to find it in white, but if I hadn't, I would have painted it!" Pale wood cabinetry is contrasted with black hardware for visual interest. Two sconces, also in black metal, illuminate the twin sinks.



THIS PAGE “A child’s room should reflect their personality, but should also be soothing, so we chose soft, warm colours,” says Sophie. “This also leaves room for toys and posters that the child gets to choose.” She dressed the bed in a wool plaid that brings a bit of traditional holiday red into the scheme, but will also look right long after the holidays. Sophie added a reading corner with a rattan chair that reinforces the home’s mix of white with natural elements.

RATTAN CHAIR, IKEA. RUG, Wayfair. HOLIDAY ACCESSORIES, HomeSense. DRAPERY, Bouclair.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK



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Maman Knows Best

Heartwarming and home-cooked recipes are what the creators of Maman restaurants wanted their first cookbook to offer. These savoury and sweet treats from *Maman: The Cookbook* are perfect to serve to family and friends on a wintry day.

RECIPES ELISA MARSHALL AND BENJAMIN SORMONTE | PHOTOGRAPHY LINDA XIAO



HOLIDAY SANGRIA

HOLIDAY SANGRIA

MAKES 6 TO 8 DRINKS

- ½ cup cranberries
- 1 (750 ml) bottle good white wine, such as Pinot Grigio or Chardonnay
- 1 cup sparkling apple cider
- 2 tbsp simple syrup (see Tip)
- 1 Granny Smith apple, cut into ½-inch cubes
- 10 (to 12) fresh rosemary sprigs

Cut ¼ cup of the cranberries in half.

In a large pitcher, combine the white wine, sparkling apple cider, simple syrup, apple, 4 sprigs of the rosemary, and the whole and halved cranberries. Slowly stir to combine. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight.

Serve chilled with some of the fruit in each glass and garnished with the remaining rosemary sprigs.

TIP: To make simple syrup, bring equal parts sugar and water to a boil over high heat, stirring to dissolve the sugar. You need only 2 tablespoons here, but it's difficult to make such a small amount, and simple syrup will keep refrigerated in an airtight container for a few weeks – use it to sweeten cocktails, tea and other drinks.

DELICATA SQUASH, TALEGGIO, ARUGULA AND HAZELNUT FOCACCIA

SERVES 4

- 1 large delicata squash, seeded and cut crosswise into ¼-inch-thick rings
- 3 tbsp maple syrup
- ¼ cup + 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 1¼ tsp fine sea salt, divided
- 1 cup packed fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves, finely chopped
- ½ cup skinned hazelnuts, roughly chopped
- 1 (12-x-9-inch) piece focaccia
- 1 (9 oz/252 g) package Taleggio cheese, cut into thin slices
- 2 cups packed baby arugula

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line a sheet pan with parchment paper.



**DELICATA SQUASH,
TALEGGIO, ARUGULA
AND HAZELNUT
FOCACCIA**

In a large bowl, toss the squash with the maple syrup, 1 tablespoon of the olive oil, and 1 teaspoon of the salt. Spread in an even layer on the prepared sheet pan and bake until tender and easily pierced with a fork, about 20 minutes. Set aside to cool and increase the oven temperature to 400°F.

In a small bowl, stir together the parsley, hazelnuts, and the remaining ¼ cup olive oil and ¼ teaspoon salt.

Set the focaccia on a sheet pan. Spread the parsley-hazelnut mixture in an even layer

across the entire surface. Arrange the squash rings on top, overlapping them to cover the focaccia evenly.

Spread the Taleggio slices evenly across the focaccia and bake until the cheese is completely melted and the focaccia has crisped, about 10 minutes.

Transfer to a wire rack and let rest for 10 minutes. Cut the focaccia into 4 large squares, then halve each square diagonally. Top with the baby arugula and serve warm.



MAMAN'S COOKIE TIRAMISU

MAMAN'S COOKIE TIRAMISU

SERVES 6

- 2 cups heavy cream
- 2 cups mascarpone
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup strong brewed espresso, warm (about 6 shots; see Tip)
- 8 store-bought chocolate chip cookies (about 30 oz)
- 2 tbsps unsweetened natural cocoa powder

In a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, whip the heavy cream on high until stiff peaks form, about 3 minutes. Transfer to a medium bowl.

In the clean bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, combine the

mascarpone, sugar and vanilla, and whip on high, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed, until smooth and creamy, about 1 minute. Add the whipped cream and gently fold with a rubber spatula to combine without deflating the mixture.

Pour the espresso into a wide shallow bowl. Set aside half of 1 cookie for garnish. Break 4 of the cookies into large chunks, add them to the espresso, and let soak, flipping once, until saturated but not falling apart, 45 to 60 seconds per side. Reserve the espresso. Arrange the soaked cookies on the bottom of an 8-inch square baking pan, pressing down to create an even layer. Spread half of the mascarpone whipped cream evenly on top of the cookies. Using a small fine-mesh sieve, dust 1 tablespoon of the cocoa powder over the mascarpone whipped cream.

Soak the remaining cookies in the reserved espresso. Use the soaked cookies, the remaining mascarpone whipped cream and the remaining cocoa powder to create a second layer. Crumble the reserved half cookie and sprinkle on top of the tiramisu. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 2 hours and up to 5 days. Serve chilled.

TIP: If you don't have an espresso machine at home, brew a dark-roast coffee or use instant espresso powder. What's important is that you don't forgo the espresso or coffee – its flavour is essential to tiramisu. If you prefer a bolder coffee flavour, sprinkle a little instant espresso powder between the layers.

MAMAN'S NUTTY CHOCOLATE CHIP HOT CHOCOLATE

MAKES 2 CUPS

- ½ cup natural sweetened cocoa powder
- ¼ cup hot water
- 1½ cups unsweetened walnut milk
- 1½ cups unsweetened oat milk
- 1 store-bought chocolate chip cookie, crumbled

In a small saucepan, whisk together the cocoa powder and hot water to create a smooth, lump-free paste. Add the walnut milk and oat milk, set over low heat, and whisk for 1 minute to fully incorporate. Increase the heat to medium and bring to a simmer, stirring occasionally and keeping a close eye. Pour into mugs, top with cookie crumbles, and serve.



Find more irresistible recipes in *Maman: The Cookbook* by Elisa Marshall and Benjamin Sormonte, Penguin Canada, \$30.



**MAMAN'S NUTTY
CHOCOLATE CHIP
HOT CHOCOLATE**

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J

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O

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9

A graceful swan in flight is striking and unique.



7



8

1 Velvet with pearls by Joanna Buchanan, \$48, Amara, amara.com. 2 Glass with LED lights, \$15, Véronneau, veronneau.com. 3 Canvas Collection ceramic, \$4, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca. 4 Delicate pink glass, \$10, HomeSense, homesense.ca. 5 Versailles, from \$12, CB2, cb2.ca. 6 Glittery pine branches with red crystals, \$10, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca. 7 Snowy swan, \$7, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca. 8 Holiday Living faux pine branch, \$15, set of 2, Rona, rona.ca. 9 Little tree in snow, \$5, Kozy, boutiquekozy.ca.



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