

A Holiday Harvest



From the crispness of the fall air to the smell of homemade pumpkin bread coming from the oven, this is the time of year that gets people excited. Excited for the little things -- like having your favorite fall coffee and pulling out your coziest of sweaters. Excited for fall football and great times with family and friends. Excited just because we have a break from Alabama heat for a little while! I could go on and on about how much I love this time of year but let's be honest, sometimes the holidays approaching can be a little overwhelming.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas knocking at our doors, it is time to begin thinking about the wonderful dinner table gatherings that will soon occur. Whether preparing for a small intimate gathering or the neighborhood Thanksgiving feast, we have some ideas that will have your guests feeling welcomed, full, happy and thinking you're the next Martha Stewart. So instead of worrying about how to prepare, focus on what matters by spending time with those you love most and use some of these fun and easy party tips to help you with your next gathering.

by Crystal Strickland • Photography by Aubrie Lemon Moates



ABOVE: Bring the outdoors in this year by incorporating fresh fruits, flowers and herbs into your tablescape. Fresh rosemary, bay leaves, olive branch, muscadines, pears and sage are just a few of the varieties used in this centerpiece.

RIGHT: Magnolia leaves are a staple in the south and add gorgeous texture and color to things like this bar cart from Williams-Sonoma. Setting up pre-made drinks for guests like these apple cider cocktails add a festive touch. Toss in a cinnamon stick for garnish.

LEFT: Metallic foils and gilding can add a sense of patina and glamour to any design. Fresh pears + gold foil = why not?! Purchase foil at your local crafting store.

Location: The Waters Model Home
Photography: Aubrie Lemon Moates
Floral Design + Styling: Southern Posies
Tableware, Flatware, Serving Pieces, Bar Cart: Williams-Sonoma
Calligraphy + Paper: Kara Anne Paper





ABOVE: Not sure what to make for dinner? No worries, we have some great ideas there too! Visit your local Williams-Sonoma store for wonderful soups, herbs, sauces, breads and don't forget about their delicious recipes on www.williams-sonoma.com



LEFT: Add an unlikely vase as your centerpiece—like this Williams-Sonoma copper tub with fresh blooms. Even that old tea kettle you have in the pantry would make a perfect vase!

BELOW: Creating placecards and a menu is a fun addition to your get-together and makes your guests feel welcomed and excited for dinner.

Fun idea: Include fun invitations asking your guests to check red or white wine. You can have their glass prepared and enough bubbly for their liking.

