

Triangle

DECEMBER 2021

HOME

DESIGN & DECOR

GREAT GATHERINGS

PLUS:
THE ULTIMATE
GIFT GUIDE

A LITTLE BIT OF MAGIC:
WHEN DINING &
DESIGN MEET



GATHER *Together*

WHEN ENTERTAINING OVER THE WINTER SEASON, BRING OUT THE SUNDAY BEST.

PRODUCED BY ANNE MARIE ASHLEY

Designer Leslie May loves to entertain, and her personal touches and vintage tableware can create the ultimate thoughtful affair for family and friends. For our Great Gatherings issue, May put together two intimate tablescapes perfect for the holidays, or just a cozy winter get-together.

Here are a few of her tried-and-true ways to make your gatherings personal and memorable.

THE HEIRLOOM FACTOR: If you have vintage or heirloom tableware, share it with your guests. Not only is it a beautiful addition to the table, but you can tell the story of it as well.

ENCOURAGE CONVERSATION: “I love to encourage conversation from across the table, so I make sure my centerpieces are low,” says May. Multiple low centerpieces along the table ensure each guest has something pretty in front of them.



THIS PAGE: May imagined a winter oyster roast as her inspiration for the table setting. She created low centerpieces of flowers, and set the table with antique servers and stemware. Silverware is from Eloquence, and dinnerware is hand-painted from Turkey, an heirloom from her grandmother who bought them while on a trip there in the '60s. For recipes and inspiration from this menu, visit her blog via @lesliemaydesigns on Instagram.





COZY & BRIGHT: Invite the right amount of people so everyone can fit snugly around your table. Light a fire if you have a hearth, inviting guests in from the cold, and put on some low background music to create ambiance.

COCKTAIL HOUR: Try to determine what your guests like to drink ahead of time, so you can be sure you have it on hand for special cocktails or favorite beverages.

PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS: “I really love to plan menus and cook, so that’s where I spend my energy,” admits May. “But if you love arranging flowers, order in and create some masterpieces to be admired throughout the house.”

THIS PAGE: In this Christmas table setting, May included vintage Christmas dinnerware from Blue Ridge Pottery and stemware from Baccarat. Heirloom silverware and monogrammed napkins provide a personal touch, and organic centerpieces include pinecones and flowers arranged by Randy McManus.

