

# TABLESCAPES: Festive Landscapes for Your Next Party

By **Kimberly Suta** | Photography courtesy of **Kelley Frost**



WHETHER YOU'RE PLANNING A DINNER PARTY, A WEDDING RECEPTION, FOURTH OF JULY BASH OR ANY HOLIDAY EVENT, KELLEY FROST WITH FROSTED HOME OFFERS UP SOME EXCLUSIVE TIPS AND TRICKS ON HOW TO TAKE YOUR PARTY TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH CURATED TABLESCAPES THAT ARE GUARANTEED TO IMPRESS AND DELIGHT ANY GUEST.

Frost recently set up a display at the beautiful Estancia del Norte Hotel with stunning holiday-themed tablescapes for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year's that left us all gobsmacked and inspired, wondering why we haven't done this before.

"A tablescape is what sets the tone in the environment for entertaining," says Frost. "It should reflect the theme of whatever the party or gathering is centered on. It should invite them in, make them feel comfortable, relaxed and ready to enjoy whatever the event is."

According to Frost, tablescapes are important regardless of the type of event. "It's an expression of creativity. It's part of the joy of setting the stage for an event, whether it's an intimate dinner party or a bridal shower. To me, it's the duty as a host to set a really nice table so people can know you thought of them. It's a hospitality, it's sharing love," she adds.

## THANKSGIVING TABLESCAPE

Here, Frost incorporated the idea of pheasants and feathers with fall colors, velvet pumpkins, gratitude napkins, which can be used as conversation starters, ribbon tags she uses as place cards and an animal hide, which she recommends for family gatherings where you think spills might be involved. "It's a resilient table covering. I love to use hides on fall tables," she says.

She recommends, in general, layering different textures and colors with a mix of heirloom pieces you already own, along with new, fun additions, such as unique fabrics and art pieces you can find at Frosted Home. She also likes to include party favors on the tables, a nice touch to make your guests feel extra special.



## HANUKKAH TABLESCAPE

For her Hanukkah Tablescape, Frost wanted it to reflect the Tree of Life theme, as it's such a central part of Jewish traditions. Although it was a challenge, she was able to find a fabulous fabric with a blue and white tree motif from Thibaut. William at Uptown Flowers took the tree she brought in and created three arrangements at the base of the tree that hooked into the bottom.

"My idea was right at dinnertime, to pull the tree off and have the arrangements on the table as lower arrangements. You can also use tall things that have thin legs on the bottom. Sometimes you just want a look for cocktail hour and then you can pull it off when you get seated so everyone can see each other across the table," Frost shares.

Frost emphasizes you shouldn't be afraid to dream big, literally, but think of ways you can adapt once dinner is served. That's part of the fun of the creative challenge.



### CHRISTMAS TABLESCAPE

This tablescape represented a traditional Christmas with a Southern vibe, with little boxwood topiaries that would be removed right before dinner. She incorporated a silver deer sculpture into the centerpiece, along with pomegranates, pears and lots of greenery. Frost encourages you to think outside the box when designing arrangements yourself or with your preferred florist. “You don’t have to just put flowers in an arrangement. Using fruit is a fun element to add to any arrangement to enhance the theme.”

Here, she altered textures of wood, China and silver and used a punch bowl to hold the floral. This, again, is an original way to incorporate a family heirloom piece. “It was a kind of nod to tradition. My thought was every Southern hostess would have a punch bowl. That’s the kind of repurposing I enjoy doing,” she says.



### NEW YEAR'S TABLESCAPE

For her New Year’s tablescape, Frost decided to go with a European-influenced Chinese New Year theme as opposed to a traditional one with silver and champagne. With this year being the year of the tiger, she incorporated that influence by using a deep red tiger-striped linen, Chinese ginger jars and Chinese lanterns.

“You can play high to low. I used a pretty beaded high-end ribbon we have at the store and paired it with lanterns from Hobby Lobby®,” she explains. The style of meal service also factors in. “This would be more of a buffet table, the way I had it set up.”

Her and her florist wanted height that would match the lanterns, so they found some bamboo to pair with the luscious red roses. Next, she incorporated some chinoiserie figures that she had already collected. “It’s great to incorporate things you have on hand as well as things that bring in a new fresh flavor,” she advises.

Frost jokes that she may be serving PF Chang’s at a dinner like this, but it’s doubtful anyone would mind.

For upcoming Valentine’s Day, she suggests using numbers instead of place cards at the table. When guests arrive, they draw a number and that’s where they will sit, so the arrangement is random. Another number sits under the plate, which will direct guests to a new chair for dessert. “Play musical chairs at the tablescape. I think it all goes together,” Frost laughs.

If you’re starting to feel inspired and excited about designing a tablescape for your own event, but still aren’t quite sure where to begin, don’t hesitate to visit Kelley Frost at Frosted Home. She will be happy to make some recommendations or advise as a consultant.

“We also have a lot of entertaining books at the store where you can glean ideas from for any time of the year. There’s a lot that happens seasonally. That’s a great starting point. Ask yourself what’s in season,” she concludes. From there, as Frost would suggest, the sky’s the limit! ♦

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