

SIMPLE HORS D'OEUVRES • LOW-FAT SIDE DISHES • PIES & TARTS • BARGAIN BORDEAUX

Food & Wine

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A COUNTRY THANKSGIVING



SALSA
CELEBRATION

Cooking School Vacations

U.S. \$3.50/CAN. \$4.50



FOR DINNER

1. If you are proud of your wood dining room table, use fine linen place mats to show it off. My place mats, by Nina Ramsey for Archipelago, have a silk fringe.

2. Mix family heirlooms with new things. I combine the glasses my grandmother commissioned in Venice back in 1928 with my own wedding china, “Si Kiang,” a Limoges pattern from Tiffany.

3. Use lots of candles. Oversize candelabra—mine stand more than a foot tall without candles—give the table an elegance that shorter ones lack. And because they create a canopy of light high above the table, there’s no glare at eye level. I also set out 25-inch tapers on a side table.

4. Arrange a simple centerpiece with flowers of a single type in colors that coordinate with the room. I favor garden roses in warm shades that accent the red floor.



KEY COLORS

As in the living room, the floor is a brilliant red, but in the dining room the light blues of the chandelier and the silk curtains, which are lined in lemon yellow, sound a second, quieter note.





FOR COCKTAILS

1. Open the living room up to the dining room so guests can move easily from drinks to dinner.
2. Keep the lighting soft and flattering. I rely on recessed lights on a dimmer and the glow from the alabaster urns behind the sofa.
3. Be sure every detail, down to the cocktail napkins, fits your style. I serve sangria in yellow-stemmed Venetian glasses, partly because the colors suit the room.

KEY COLORS

The tone of the living room is set by the floor color, which Spear calls Chanel nail-polish red (Benjamin Moore's "Brilliant Red"). A surprising complement: sunflower yellow.

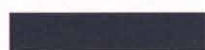


FOR BRUNCH

1. Make the kitchen comfortable for guests. Even if the room is small, try to provide a place for friends to hang out.

2. Be sure to have stools for visitors. Mine are flea market finds that I refinished and reupholstered in blue vinyl to coordinate with the cabinets and the table.

3. Light the island with an unusual hanging lamp. I found one made of vintage handblown glass.



KEY COLORS



The kitchen is a sea of blues: the Benjamin Moore stain on the cabinets, the periwinkle vinyl on the chairs and stools and the blue grain of the Macauba marble from Brazil.

