

# TABLE TOP VISTAS

CORE ITEMS SET THE 'SCAPE

## GOING FOR THE GOLD

Big life events call for big fun and over-the-top entertaining. Gilding the lily or stemware, napkins, votives and vases is the way to go for shimmer and glamour galore. Polish your grandmother's silver, max out mirrors as centerpiece and coasters and hit up your favorite vintage stores for super cool precious metal bar ware. Candles, candles, candles everywhere and a clever and amusing party favor for every guest — it's the little things that count.

Gone are the days of loading up on a single, pricey china, silver and crystal pattern all at one time and sticking with tabletop settings that are set in stone. Imagine doing that with your wardrobe: No change of accessories, no mixing and matching and no jumping on board with a frivolous trend. Of course you wouldn't and the same applies for dressing your table. It takes time to collect serve ware, linens and decorative accessories that suit your personality and style. The key is to invest in a few strategic pieces on the front end, use them in a multitude of ways and take your time to create meaningful tabletop looks for every season and occasion. True style reflects your life story — the salt and peppers passed down from great Aunt Betty, the ceramic bowls you hauled back from Italy and the sale napkins scored from your favorite store. Stock up on versatile starters to get things going while your taste and creativity evolves.

BY KATY DANOS | PHOTOS BY JAMES GAFFNEY



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## EARTHY AND CASUAL

Fall into the season with a warm palette and rustic autumnal vibe. Easy change of napkins, serving dishes and silverware with additions of glassware, decorative pieces and organic materials are the kind of charming details that create a welcoming table. It's time to bump up the candlelight glow and pull up a few more chairs for cozy gatherings with family and friends.



Choose a neutral dinnerware pattern to dress up or down like a little black dress and multi-purpose stemware and glasses that do double duty for a myriad of drinks. Splurge on two totally non-essential decorative items that make you happy, such as candlesticks, a champagne bucket, fancy dessert plates or a cake stand. Like great guests, they'll provide immediate visual interest and drama.

With this tabletop core, you can create totally different looks, themes and settings with a simple change of napkins, place mats or flatware. Antique shops, tag sales, and your mom's china cabinet are great places to find fun accents, interesting bar ware and colorful salad plates. Nothing brings a sense of occasion like candlelight and fresh flowers, so buy a big bag of tealights from Costco, grab blooms from a nearby store (or your neighbor's yard) and put a little something special at each person's place. Enjoy gathering festive and sentimental items over years of imaginative table setting. It's not how much you spend that makes for memorable entertaining, its all about personal touch, display of effort and the company that you keep.

Three Dinner Party Tablescapes using the same core ingredients — Vietri Bellezza dinnerware, Vietri Optical drink ware, a Vietri Bellezza cake stand and a fabulous pair of glass candlesticks!

## CLASSIC AND TIMELESS

For an elegant and cohesive look, stick with one neutral color and one accent shade for pop. Stacks of dishes, candlelight and linens suggest formality, but don't be afraid to mix sterling silver with casual placemats, or fine china with grocery store carnations. Layers of texture, sheen and natural elements keep things fresh. Antique salt and pepper cellars and tiny porcelain vases at each spot set the stage for any special occasion.



### CORE TABLESCAPE INGREDIENTS

VIETRI ITALIAN CERAMIC  
WDINNERWARE-BELLEZZA  
COLLECTION

Salad Plate \$43 | Dinner Plate \$45  
Charger \$78 | Cakestand \$120

Pair of Organic Glass Candlesticks \$156

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### ADDITIONAL SOURCES FOR DESIGN INSPIRATION

Linen Registry | 504.831.8228  
Jeanne Barrousse Designs | [jeannebarroussedesigns.com](http://jeannebarroussedesigns.com)  
MCA Studios | [mcastudiosnola.com](http://mcastudiosnola.com)  
Scriptura | [scriptura.com](http://scriptura.com)  
Paper Lantern Store | [paperlanternstore.com](http://paperlanternstore.com)  
Patti Constantin Catering | 504.835.5552

TABLETOP DESIGN BY KATY DANOS  
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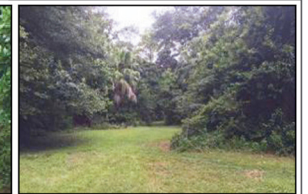
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