

Connecticut COTTAGES & GARDENS

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Holiday Splendor

FESTIVE HOUSES | GIFT IDEAS | ENTERTAINING



Holiday Reflections

MEMORIES, TRADITIONS AND GIFT IDEAS FROM FRIENDS IN THE HAMPTONS, CONNECTICUT AND WESTCHSTER

"The best gift is time spent with friends and family. Truffles and pasta with butter and a bottle of red aren't bad either!" —*Shannon McLean, fashion and interior designer*

"The week after Thanksgiving we go out in search of the perfect Christmas tree. For decorating, we play Bing Crosby and Perry Como. The scent of pine combined with their voices on the sound system, make each holiday season special." —*Christina Sullivan, Roughan, Roughan Interior Design*

"Poilâne Bakeries in Paris makes a round loaf decorated for the holidays, which can be ordered online. People are always surprised to receive fresh bread from France."

—*John Barman, John Barman Inc.*

"At Christmas my family—all 14 of us—meet at Sandy Lane in Barbados and tuck in for a week of nirvana."

—*Lisa Jackson, CEO Lucca & Co.*

"The first Christmas I spent in South Hampton, I hosted a Christmas feast with friends and my parents, who had flown in from Ireland. After our meal we went to midnight mass. When we came out a light snow was falling and I remember thinking—this moment is perfection."

—*Jarlab Mellett, designer and owner of Jarlab Mellett*

"My big Italian family, my wife and kids, putting up the tree and lighting the menorah! It doesn't get any better than that."

—*Dan Barsanti, HB Home*

"I adore Christmas Eve. First we attend an early candlelight service, then it's home for cocktails, shrimp casserole and *White Christmas*."

—*Ronda Carman, All the Best Blog*

"My favorite holiday tradition, especially for Christmas, is to be sitting by a fireplace staying warm, preferably with a glass of red wine in hand. I reflect on the year that has passed and focus on the year ahead."

—*David Easton, David Easton Inc.*

"I slip away from the Christmas Eve table just after dessert and phone someone's cell with a voice disguised as Santa to convince the youngsters to get home quickly and into bed. It works every year!" —*Andrew T. Mitchell-Namdar, Mitchells Family of Stores*

"I have a wonderful memory of Mark Hampton's Christmas parties at his home on Park Avenue, where old fashioned comfort and songs around the piano were served with tasty treats." —*Kevin C Hall, Hall & Associates Interiors Inc.*

"My favorite holiday event was dinner the Saturday before Christmas at Carolyne Roehm's. I loved the way she had set up dinner with decorations in the great hall and how she brought in carolers and then musicians to play afterward. It was so beautiful and aesthetic, no gaudiness, just charm and elegance."

—*Robert Couturier, Robert Couturier & Associates*

"I love the Christmas tree in the old cemetery on Sagg Main Street in Sagaponack. I drive by it at dusk each day." —*Claudia Thomas*

"At my holiday table, I'd love to have the cast from *Holiday Inn*. I watch it every season and never tire of it."

—*Kerry Delrose, Delrose Design Group*

"On Christmas Day we stay in our pajamas all day with our two boys. We relax, enjoy each other's company, and eat all day long!"

—*Bill Taibe, Chef at leFarm, Westport*

"The holidays are about family and friends around a beautiful table with good food, great wine, a bottle of 25-year-old Macallan and Davidoff cigars."

—*Bob Appelbaum, President, Clarence House*

"A few weeks ago a friend and I were scouting Ruby Beets and I pointed out several pieces of vintage creamware. They were the same pattern her mom had growing up. I waited until she was distracted before whispering the purchase. Let's hope I can hold out 'till Christmas to surprise her!"

—*Mark Epstein, Mark Epstein Designs, Inc.*

"My favorite holiday tradition is going to see the New York City Nutcracker ballet. It will never get old for me."

—*Edward Tricomi, co-owner Warren-Tricomi Salon*

"I love New York City. The streets are filled with great energy and everybody is in a good mood."

—*Joel Warren, co-owner Warren-Tricomi Salon*

"The holiday season is a joyous time for connecting with my family and my community."

—*Elizabeth Eakins, Elizabeth Eakins, Inc.*

"On Christmas Eve we take our three children and their significant others for a blow-out steak dinner at my family's restaurant, Peter Luger, in Brooklyn."

—*Ellie Cullman, Cullman & Kravis, Inc.*

"Potato Pancakes! My mother, the greatest style setter I have known, was famous for her ethereal, crispy potato latkes."

—*Judy Coben, Judith Coben Design*

"After the tree is decorated, I turn off all the lights in the room and lie under it looking up through the branches and listen to music the way I used to when I was a little girl."

—*Carolyne Roehm, designer and author, "A Passion for Interiors"*

"At this point in life, I think everyone has just about everything they need, so I'm giving people black turtle stools. I'm going to put big bows on them!"

—*Lisa Stamm, The Homestead Garden & Design*

"Decorating our Christmas tree with our two girls with the ornaments they made in school."

—*Olivier Peardon, CEO Bruntschwij & Fils*

"We spend the holidays at our summer home in Bridgehampton. On Christmas Day we have a big family meal and at night our three grown children have carried on their quirky tradition of hosting an evening paddle tennis tournament with their childhood friends."

—*Jay McLaughlin, J. McLaughlin*

"Wrapping the gifts! I usually have a theme. Last year it was a potato stencil of a Christmas tree that I inked onto brown craft paper."

—*Honey Wolters, Ruby Beets*