

Defining Design in Richmond



Susan Jamieson, ASID

Home Entertaining Made Easy

Since the holidays are right around the corner, you are likely putting together your annual dinner party. Making the right choices, from selecting food to decorating your home with autumn colors, can be a daunting task. Use these tips to help you with table decor, flower arranging, and the proper food selections for a wonderful evening with friends.

Our table is set with a mixture of china patterns and glassware to create a less formal and more relaxed atmosphere. To keep with the fall theme, the flower arrangement boasts rich warm colors thanks to an assortment of Gerber Daisies, mums, miniature roses and cabbage leaves.

To make the evening more memorable I recommend an activity that your guests can participate in, such as a wine tasting. Having place cards combined with a wine tasting scorecard to stimulate conversation helps break the ice. Select different wines for each course you serve.

Your final task is to plan your menu. By consulting my chef friends Martha, Nigella and the Contessa, a menu is chosen which complements the theme of comfort and warmth. Starting with an appetizer of mussels followed by acorn squash soup, filet of beef, roasted potatoes, zucchini gratin, we'll enjoy chocolate ganache cake for dessert.

My favorite part of preparing for a dinner party is shopping at the unique gourmet and specialty shops in Richmond. To get the best ingredients for this meal, I traveled to several different shops including the Yellow Umbrella, Belmont Butchery, Jean Jacques Bakery, For the Love of Chocolate, and River City Cellars, all of which were very helpful with excellent insider tips and cooking advice. For a sneak peak into the kitchen at Jean Jacques Bakery and for a more detailed look at how to throw a dinner party, check out our video on: www.housetrends.com/definingdesign.

Happy Holiday Hosting!

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Participants:

Yellow Umbrella

5600 Patterson Ave. – 804.282.9591

Belmont Butchery

15 N. Belmont Ave. – 804.422.8519

Jean Jacques Bakery

3138 West Cary St. – 804.355.0666

For the Love of Chocolate

2820 West Cary St. – 804.359.5645

River City Cellars

2931 West Cary St. – 804.355.1375

Bridget Beari Designs

3210 Hawthorne Ave. – 804.321.4747



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