

FOR THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS, GIVE GUESTS THE GIFT OF TABLES THAT ARE A DECORATIVE FEAST FOR THE EYES.

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HARD CANDY CHRISTMAS

Out of the candy bowl and onto the table, this setting, opposite, indulges the sweet tooth. Stripes aplenty take cues from the old-fashioned candy canes hooked over the rim of a cylinder vase. Tonal green flatware is delicious against red-striped place mats. Ribbon candies hold place cards upright and lend a sweet finish to the coordinating dinnerware ensemble.

SILVER BELLS

Ring in a holiday meal with classic silver bells, above. A round, beaded place mat boasts concentric rings of silver and gold beneath a ceramic plate rimmed in pewter and a salad plate with a delicate scalloped texture. A few choice bells adorn plates of the tarnished silver variety. Smaller bells serve as place card holders and decorate dainty tabletop trees tied with silver ribbon.

Why settle on one metallic finish when there's beauty in all? Yellow and rose gold mingle with silver for a mix that sings.



ROSES AND GOLD

This setting, above, gets its sparkle from both rose and yellow golden tones. A shimmery place mat sets the scene for other elements of the same rosy hue including flatware, scattered ornaments, slender taper candles, and a twist of ribbon tied around the napkin. The suite of dinnerware layers swirls, scallops, and a snowflake over the base mat. A pair of tinted glasses completes the dazzling setup.

SLEIGH RIDE

Woodland elements including wooden place mats and twig-handle silverware, opposite, are accented by lively red touches, including a glossy red bowl, sweater-cozied mug, and embroidered napkin festooned with a bronze sleigh bell. Birchbark-wrapped candles perched on birch log slices and a sprinkle of pinecones nod to a wintry forest scene accented by a sleigh overflowing with ornaments.





Tonal table settings can be a dramatic way to showcase a favorite hue and celebrate a variety of patterns and textures.



SOFT AND GRAPHIC

Toile, which is French for "canvas," paints the perfect Christmas portrait, opposite. Mimicking the French motif, the delicate pattern of a transferware plate is encircled by a graphic red-and-white charger, with a toile ribbon flowing underneath held in place by classic silver flatware. The striped linen place mat pairs with a French linen-style napkin embellished with a ring of striped balls. Transferware pitchers and sugar bowls used as vases bring nostalgia to the table while striped glasses breathe a modern vibe into the setting.

THE MAGIC OF MONOTONE

Find a spot on the color spectrum and stick to it, like this celebration of green, above. An assortment of hard materials—including ceramic, metal, and glass—is softened by a woven place mat and swirl-pattern napkin tied with a ribbon and sprig of evergreen. A beaded table runner plays host to a cloisonné vase filled with pine and alstroemeria. Faux boxwood wreaths elevate basic white pillar candles sitting on bread plates. Chartreuse-handle flatware and green-tint glasses round out the verdant scene.