

USG HOLIDAY SHOPPING

PICKS FROM THE PROS



>> Serve finger food and desserts on Crate & Barrel Berry and Sprig Appetizer Plates; set of six for \$28.95, Crate & Barrel.

>> Begin dinner with a simple, white, high-fired porcelain Buffet Plate by Crate & Barrel; \$5.95, Crate & Barrel.



>> If white's too boring, spruce up decor using the Giardino collection from Nachtmann. Water tumblers (four for \$59.99, amazon.com) and plates (set of two for \$29.99, amazon.com) come in amber, yellow, orange and light and deep reds.



>> Give warmth to table settings with the Wood Charger Plate; \$19.95, Crate & Barrel.

Party favors

Entertain with style for the holidays



[KRT PHOTO]

By Leah Jayasanker
FOR REDEYE

As the holidays near, your hosting days are fast approaching. Whether it's Thanksgiving, Kwanzaa or Hanukkah, we've got specific table-dressing ideas to keep you calm and cool.

RedEye talked with the experts to help you pull off the party of the season.

"Whether you have 1 or 10 million dollars to spend, it's about the environment you create and the emotion you put into entertaining," says Cathy Riva, the Discovery Home Channel's Party Girl.

Luckily, simplicity is the way to go this year, says Lisa Ridolfi, a spokeswoman for Crate & Barrel. For example, she suggests spicing up your white plates with a colorful accessory.

"Rich colors and deep hues like green and brown are very in this year," Ridolfi says.

Another easy fix is lighting candles to "modify the mood," she says. You can also serve wine in large goblets or stemless glasses, which Ridolfi says are "very hot."

CHEAT SHEET

Cathy Riva has some valuable tips to make your house shine:

- >> Heat apple cider on a stove for a lingering spicy aroma.
- >> Add color with a quick-solution tablecloth in a deep velvet hue.
- >> Serve a tasty warm and hearty butternut squash soup in festive containers from Williams-Sonoma.
- >> Decorate pine cones gathered from

outside with gold and silver glitter. (Allow them to dry overnight before painting.)

- >> Enhance the mood with favorite holiday tunes.
- >> Most importantly, try to replicate the warmth you have for your guests with your personal favorite touches. When in doubt, consult Michael's Arts and Crafts and Williams-Sonoma for guidance. [L.J.]



>> Spice up your table with Cambria placemats and coordinating solid napkins; \$8.95 and \$3.95, Crate & Barrel.



>> Serve hip cocktails in Clio two-part martini glasses that will keep your drink on ice when it's not in your hand; \$9.95, Crate & Barrel.

>> Present wine in casual no-frills stemless wine glasses; \$1.95, Crate & Barrel.



>> Serve fine cheese using stainless steel cheese knives; \$14.95, Crate & Barrel.

>> Dress up lighting with candles in Tree Branch candleholders; \$9.95, Crate & Barrel.

>> For a reliable, safe alternative to candles, use Staylit Lights by Inliten; \$7.99, Target.

