



DAVID HARRISON

Gold and silver woven nests tuck into flower arrangements, table greens or floral bouquets. Use green and white winter berry instead of holly and add your own collection of birds. Nests at Che Bella Nido, Little Italy.

Jennifer Sbranti, local founder/editor-in-chief, Hostess with the Mostess, Inc., online entertaining magazine
For a tropical-themed holiday:

- 1 Use a color palette of vibrant reds, lush greens, white and beige.
- 2 Keep the mood tropical and exotic.
- 3 Turn single stems of *Heliconia* or ginger upside down and submerge in tall glass vases filled with water.
- 4 Arrange fan palm or *Monstera* leaves in a circle as a base for a centerpiece arrangement of exotic flowers, including anthuriums and pincushion *Protea*.
- 5 Fill large bowls with coconuts and embellish with small white orchid blooms.
- 6 Use palm leaves and fronds to line the inside of cylinder vases filled with water and red and white floating candles.
- 7 Wrap bottles of wine or other small gifts with flat palm leaves.
- 8 Use long palm fronds, raffia and white orchid blooms instead of ribbon and bows.

Recycled zippers made into bows can decorate gifts or napkin rings. At India Ink Papers.



Carla Bassi, owner
Che Bella, Che Bella Nido:

- 1 Use a potted lemon or lime tree instead of pine and decorate with lights and ornaments. Italian or Chinese pottery make nice containers.
- 2 Decorate a kumquat, 'Meiwa' or 'Nagami', or the dwarf calamondin, which also has small orange fruit on it.
- 3 For a small condo, use branches of fragrant blue juniper with its grayish-blue berries in an umbrella stand or floor vase instead of a tree. Fragrance is important at holiday time.
- 4 Add a modern chartreuse-y green with branches of incense cedar. Layer additional and different shades of green throughout the house with linens, stemware, containers and fresh greens.
- 5 Use just silver with green; silver candleholders, silver ornaments, old family silver polished to a shine. Christmas red can be too harsh.
- 6 Mix magnolia branches with black viburnum for greens. The viburnum berries have a dusky blush. Hit them with a little clear glitter spray so they look like sugared fruit.
- 7 If you want red in the house, choose the older, darker reds of Italian glazed pottery. Mix with lots of ivory flowers such as roses and amaryllis, and ivory candles. Another variation on red is the hot pink of new poinsettias that look like rickrack.
- 8 Decorate the currently popular antler chandeliers or candlesticks with spheres of preserved bay leaves and mercury glass or mirrored ornaments.
- 9 Add a good fragrance with blue pottery or glass bowls of clementines or of oranges with cloves. Put a sprig of pine in for contrast.
- 10 For the final touch, throw some grains of frankincense in the fire.

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