

## Beautiful Table Settings, for the Holidays.



## Martin Amado

Martin Amado is a television designer, lifestyle expert and contributing writer on the subject of home décor. He specializes in one-day makeovers and working with a minimal budget to achieve the decorator look for less!

here is nothing nicer than enjoying a delicious meal, in a beautiful setting and in the company of great family and friends. After all, these are the three main ingredients to a successful dinner party! And what a better occasion than during the holidays to spend a little extra time on those small details that can enhance the experience and make it all the more memorable around the table.

## A Harvest Table

The fall season is about bringing nature and textural elements inside the home as part of your décor. Create a simple harvest centerpiece by grouping small pumpkins and gourds from your grocery store around the base of a glass candleholder. You can even make tea light holders out of the mini pumpkins by carving out the center. Another idea for table décor is to fill clear vases with acorns, hazelnuts and walnuts and place them along the length of the table. Depending on where you live you might be able to find some of these items in your own backyard for free -- especially fall leaves and branches, which can also be used as filler inside a vase. Let the rust colors we find in nature during this season be your inspiration for the place settings: deep burgundies, olives, browns and oranges and mix them with the tablecloth, dinnerware and napkins. Shop in the craft section of your favorite store for a selection of inexpensive items that with a little creativity will look great on your dinner table, too. For example, miniature grapevine

wreaths can be used as napkin rings and as decorative bases for votive candles.

A Merry Table

Traditional colors of the Christmas season such as red and green always make a cheerful statement on your dinner table, while metallic colors like gold and silver reflect a more elegant style. The first tip is to stay committed to your color scheme, so that you have a cohesive look that makes a statement.

Layer your table with elements you already have as part of your home's décor during this special time of the year. Door wreaths make beautiful centerpieces with candles or flowers





and they can also be used to decorate a cake stand or serving platter for a festive presentation. Take some of your actual ornaments from your holiday tree and scatter them around the table for a whimsical touch. Ornaments and pinecones make great place-card holders, not only to assign seating, but also to label the buffet dishes on a server. Dress up each place setting with plate chargers for that extra sparkle on the table. As napkin rings, tie cinnamon sticks with a bow using wired







ribbon or wrap a berry garland around the napkin. Even fruit from your pantry can be turned into a beautiful display on your table by filling a vase with apples covered with water, which magnifies the effect.

Go ahead, get creative, and have your dinner table capture the spirit of the season! You will be creating a gastronomical experience for your family and guests that they will always remember.

For more information, visit his website: martinamado.com. You may follow him on Twitter @makeovermaestro, join his Facebook fan page: Martin Amado: Home Décor & Lifestyle Expert, subscribe to his YouTube channel: Martin Amado and follow him on Instagram: @martinamadotv for more decorating tips and ideas.



## Holiday Scent, Mmm!

Make your own creative cinnamon ornament. Not only is it beautiful, but it also has a delicious sweet scent that fill your home with Christmas cheer.

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