

# festive tables

'tis (almost) the season to dress your tables in their holiday best

**H**oliday events are just around the corner, so it's time to think about how you'll outfit your tables in festive, eye-catching ways that suit the season.

Today's holiday tabletop décor trends run the gamut from glitzy to rustic and from colorful to monochrome (i.e., white, white, white!). The look you choose depends on the type of event you're catering and the space you're decorating.

My work at Holiday Foliage keeps me focused on seasonal decoration year-round, and I never tire of finding new ways to present a holiday theme. Just remember a few key ideas: Enhance your décor with layered textures; don't be afraid to scale-it-up; mix your colors in a uniform way; tweak traditions; and, when in doubt, stick with the classic!

Following are descriptions of my favorite holiday trends for tabletop decor and tips on how to achieve them. Whichever look you choose, be consistent! Carrying a look throughout the room or space always looks best.



## Putting on the Glitz

Snowy glitter and natural elements are a simple and understated choice. We are seeing lots of glittered branches with sparkling crystals, sequins and beads. Combine these sparkling pieces with natural branches and pine cones to create a magical, winter-wonderland feeling. The juxtaposition of the natural and the shimmering will dazzle your guests.



## Big Lodge

Use real twigs in their natural state, mixed with white birch. Add colorful ornaments and rustic elements. Make sure the displays have lots of textures. Dried, curly willow (which is great for hanging ornaments) and even spring branches like dogwood are great for large tablescape and help create impact. Consider even larger, flowering tree branches. Remember scale—don't be afraid to go big!

## Jeweled Brights

The color theme of your holiday decoration should match or complement the décor of your event site. Jewel tones make a rich, royal statement and can add pizzazz to a neutral room or table setting. In your ornaments and table décor, combine antiqued metallic finishes, like gold and silver, with textured elements, like satin and velvet. Bright colors in unexpected combinations—such as burgundy, pink, orange and fuchsia—make a big, bold statement. This look works well with white linens and color-banded place plates or bright-colored napkins. Use a bright ornament to bundle napkins, or mix colors the same way by combining two or more linen patterns.



## Winter White

Classic white-on-white holiday décor takes on added elegance when using various combinations of white, from icy winter shades to creamy neutrals. Combine modern tableware with vintage serving pieces. I like the idea of an all-white table with large glass cylinders filled with various white holiday ornaments; try filigree, matte pearl, white glass, and antique ornaments in white and silver. Don't be afraid to combine them, but just make sure to do it consistently. White is always right!



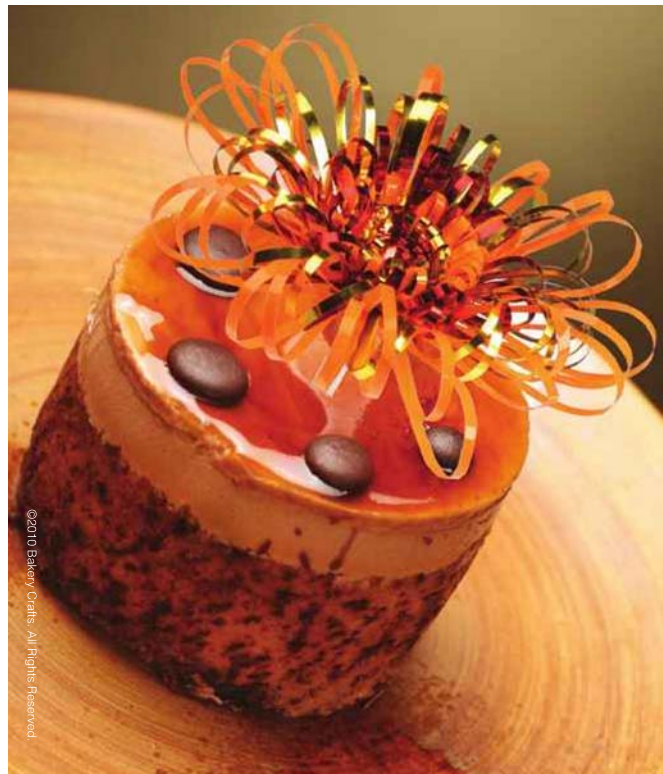
## Traditional Twist

Though traditional holiday colors will always be with us, it doesn't necessarily mean they need to be "safe." Start with the darkest, richest forest or hunter green, coupled with a lush burgundy or wine. Then punch up this time-honored combination with lime-green or hot pink for a clever variation and a more contemporary look.





San Diego-based Holiday Foliage Inc. is a four-seasonal visual display company specializing in the manufacture of artificial Christmas decor and metal fixtures. For information, visit [holidayfoliage.com](http://holidayfoliage.com).



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