

Walnut Eames stool from Living Edge, \$1165.50, (02) 8596 8888.



Personalised stationery, to order from Paper Couture, (02) 9357 6855.

My Natale cards

Ed

What do you suggest for a unique way to celebrate Christmas?

"A fully catered dinner party with waiting staff for family and closest friends in your own home. Go all out and invest in personalised invitations as well as place settings with panache. I love Eames for Herman Miller wooden stools. I use them as bedside tables and for artefacts as their profiles are so great, but they also make great extra seating for when unexpected guests drop by. Part seating, part sculpture."

Gucci place holders, \$440 for set of six, (02) 9232 7565.



What are some ways to make a home truly look like Christmas?

"Fairy lights, a beautiful tree, a wreath on the front door, and a Bing Crosby Christmas carol CD playing in the background. If you do none of the above, at least hang the obligatory mistletoe in the doorway."

What about a formal Christmas dinner, can you suggest a few nice touches?



"Beg, borrow or steal a set of proper old silver cutlery; it's amazing what a difference it can make to heighten the mood of a dinner. I also suggest serving a special fruit tea at the end of a meal. This is no time for Twinings, go for something exotic, imported and never been tried before. Go glam on the glassware. I love black glass in rococo-style shapes. Put with a white-on-white setting and you have monochromatic glamour in an instant."

Gin&Tonic Nellie goblet, \$79.95 for set of four, 0414 405 146.

**The interiors expert
Greg Natale**

The interior designer and Belle Young Designer of the Year knows a thing or two about festive decadence.



What is the latest trend in decorations?
"Heavy hand-blown ornate and intricate glass pieces. I love Swarovski's crystal baubles for their sense of history and heavy-duty glamour."



Swarovski ornament, \$110, (02) 8345 7200.

Can you suggest a few nice touches to host a casual Christmas lunch?

"Smaller trinket presents stuck underneath each guest's chair. For a casual coastal lunch, I love the look of cutlery with bamboo handles. At home, a simple white setting but laden with crystal and silver. A nice touch is also hiring a chocolate fondue machine so guests can dip their own fruits (www.thechocolateguy.com.au)."

My Island Home bamboo cutlery, \$175 for a set of five, (02) 9362 8760.



Q. What makes a beautiful tree?

"It has to be no less than six feet tall with very thick branches so you can't see its core. I am not a fan of the triangle tree, so if you have a real one try trimming it into a slim cone shape which sits only 20cm off the ground. Tie a decoration to each branch for maximum impact — don't skimp. Use no more than four colours and always buy 10 of one type of decoration."

What flowers

do you suggest?

"It depends on your colour theme. Whatever I do, it will be in massive bunches. Last year, I went quite modern with yellow berries, pink crab claws and pink lilies with tropical thick green leaves. This year, I am thinking simply with a line of Tse & Tse test tube vases stuffed with colourful poppies. I will run four down the table for maximum effect."



Poppies, \$45 for three bunches, from Verdant Flower Merchants, (02) 9518 7385, in Tse & Tse d'Avril vases, \$295, from Space, (02) 9667 8200.

Donna Wilson doiley, \$46, from Space, (02) 9667 8200.