



Southern Living
SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION

Christmas

AT HOME

150
WAYS TO
HAVE A VERY
SOUTHERN
CHRISTMAS



**HOLIDAY
COOKBOOK**
Our Test Kitchen's
Best Recipes

DISPLAY UNTIL JANUARY 9, 2015

SPC SPECIALS

\$12.99US \$15.99CAN



plus

OUR MOST BEAUTIFUL TREES EVER!



→ editor's tip

SECURE A LARGE TREE TO A WALL OR CEILING WITH CLEAR FISHING LINE AND SCREWS OR CUP HOOKS.



Meet the Experts

EVENT PLANNER AND DESIGNER KRISTIN NEWMAN (RIGHT) OF KRISTIN NEWMAN DESIGNS (KRISTINNEWMANDESIGNS.COM), PICTURED WITH FLORAL DESIGNER HEATHER BARRIE OF GATHERING EVENTS (GATHERINGEVENTS.COM)

HOME BASE

Charleston, South Carolina

OFTEN-OVERLOOKED ASPECTS OF A HOLIDAY PARTY?

I can't stress this enough: Enlisting a small service staff will allow you to be the hostess and enjoy the company of your guests.

FAVORITES FOR ACHIEVING THAT PARTY WOW FACTOR?

Always use fresh materials—fresh flowers, fresh greens, and a fresh tree. When guests see the lengths you've gone to for these little luxuries, they will feel spoiled.

MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO CREATE A FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE?

Beyond serving really good food and drink, consider providing live music, such as a pianist or Christmas carolers.

LAST-MINUTE HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING TIP?

Traditional holiday aromas get everyone in the spirit: the scent of Fraser fir, the smell of a wood fire, and delicious things baking in the oven, for example.

Trim the tree HEARTH ALL AGLOW

A 12-FOOT FRASER FIR STANDS READY FOR MEMORY MAKING IN A SOUTH-OF-BROAD CHARLESTON LIVING ROOM



TWINKLE, TWINKLE

Oversize gold balls are juxtaposed with bright-red spindles in various sizes to achieve maximum sparkle. One of Kristin's secrets for extra shine and dimension is to bury ornaments all the way to the tree's trunk.



TALL ORDER

A Christmas tree as large as this Fraser fir calls for equally grand surroundings. The mantel reaches glorious new heights with towering bunches of cedar, pine, kiwi vine, and deep-red amaryllis in hotel silver vessels.



PLUSH COLOR

In lieu of the usual pots of poinsettias, surprise guests by composing a holiday arrangement of the unexpected, such as wine-red peonies interspersed with leafy greens. (Tip: Call your florist before Thanksgiving to ensure on-time arrival of these blooms.)



PRESENT PERFECT

Along with classic wrapping paper patterns—scallop, herringbone, and damask—Kristin used papier-mâché hat boxes faux-finished in antique gold; straw ribbon; and the same pinecones, glitter stars, and birds that adorn the branches of the tree.