

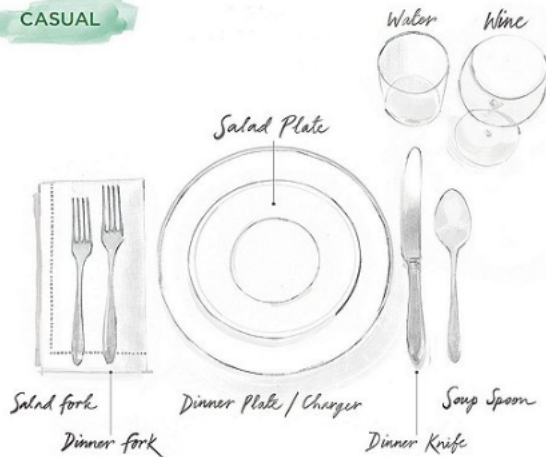
ONE KINGS LANE

DECORATING & ENTERTAINING IDEAS

The Complete Guide to Setting A Holiday Table

Setting an elegant table can be one of the most daunting tasks of the holiday season. There are countless decisions to be made about tabletop, centerpieces, flatware, and linens. As we head into the holiday season, we asked our friends to help us set tables that felt fresh. From a coastal autumnal dinner to a cozy Christmas soir ee, our experts shared their best tips and tricks for creating beautiful tabletop moments.

CASUAL



How To Set the Table

Let's start with the basics: How you set your table dictates the meal you're having. Do you want a casual dinner with friends or a formal family gathering? Each tablescape has pros and cons. The formal place setting is luxe. It includes both red and white wine glasses, multiple types of utensils, and various plates. The casual place setting has a single wine glass and a water goblet, fewer utensils, and is less crowded. These templates are just a base from which to build, and everyone we spoke to has their take.

"I don't entertain as much as I would like to with my hectic travel schedule," says interior designer [Paloma Contreras](#). "So, when I do, I like to make things feel as special as possible." [Ben Reynaert](#), Senior Style & Market Editor at ADPro, also takes a buttoned-up approach. "I always lean hard into formal for the holidays," he says. As for design journalist [Sarah Bray](#), something a little more freeform feels right. "I don't like to follow too many rules," she says. "I always start with the tablecloth, usually yardage of a decorative fabric, and let the creative juices flow from there."

FORMAL





Photo courtesy of Liz Caan

Liz Caan

While red and green are certainly holiday mainstays, they come with strings attached. Namely, not everyone's home looks good in that merry combination. Enter designer Liz Caan and her colorful dining room.

Liz set her table with blue and white china, amethyst chargers, and fresh greenery that speaks to the colors of the table. "The table feels fresh and festive, and it still looks great in my dining room where a red and green theme would clash," she says.

Liz's Guide to a Beautiful Table

1. Be creative. "It's about being creative and having fun with things you have around the house that you have collected."
2. There's no such thing as too much salt. "Make sure there are lots of mini individual salt cellars or salt and pepper shakers scattered about."
3. Beautiful napkins are a must. "Take time to press the linens."