

FESTIVE SETTINGS

When designers set their tables for Christmas you can be sure they will prepare a feast for the eyes as well as the spirit. Country Looks asked three interior designers to decorate their tables and set an extra place for us.



Shades of Fez

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Barbara Hermon's inspiration for her Christmas luncheon table setting comes from Fez in Morocco, North Africa. Barbara's whimsical Christmas in Fez is a romantic alfresco lunch for two, which she will enjoy on the terrace of her coastal retreat with husband John. "The Australian climate does not suit heavy, English style Christmas food. I prefer to serve a light entree and main course using locally caught fish and then balance the two first courses with a deliciously rich Christmas pudding. Otherwise it's not Christmas."

Barbara has used bright blue tassels to decorate the edge of the tables instead of a more traditional cloth.

Moons and stars have been scattered on the serving table and in the unusual tree. The tree by Flowers Vasette has been decorated with seasonal fruit and stands on a side table. The entire setting sits under a stunning canvas calico awning, which Barbara has also added tassels to. The stemware and plates are frosted glass with a star pattern to reiterate the gilded stars Barbara has used for added impact on the tables and in the tree. Cutlery also features the beautiful bright blue she has used to decorate the table. "I love the glassware and plates by Christopher Vine. They are not obviously traditional and yet the star is a universally acknowledged symbol of Christmas."



Opposite: Barbara Hermon's Christmas is a romantic setting for two. Top: Patterned wine goblets and dinner plates add to the festive feel of the table. Above left: The tassels add a definite Moroccan flair to the table. Above right: Barbara Hermon under the awning of her terrace ready for her Christmas luncheon.

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