

Savor

WineCountry

SEASONAL FESTIVITIES

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



The ART of ENTERTAINING

Experts offer tips, tricks and recipes on how to shine at party time in Wine Country

STORIES BY VIRGINIE BOONE PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHARLIE GESELL

The Wine Country is an exalted place for food and wine, and the holidays an exalted time to indulge. But when it comes to holiday entertaining, some of us just fumble through the motions, lucky that we're here and can naturally piece together so many good things. For others, putting together a beautiful table, extraordinary hors d'oeuvres, the right wines and a perfect meal is an art already mastered. We need them; and just like the angel Clarence for despairing George Bailey, they're here to show us a better way.

Sandra Jordan

Jordan Winery's Sandra Jordan has made it her life's work to provide ideas and accoutrements for hosting friends and family around the table.

This includes the reassurance that a meal doesn't have to be fancy to be enjoyable. Casual yet elegant entertaining is her goal. Jordan is an advocate of us-

ing what's already around one's home and garden to decorate a table. Nor is she averse to the finer things in life. In fact, Jordan's calling is about blending the simple with the sublime — taking a leaf from her own backyard to inspire the creation of a silver wine accessory or ceramic serving plate.

As inspired as she is by the visual, Jordan also appreciates the stories that often accompany the foods, wines and even serving bowls, silverware and decanters that make up a festive table. That's been true since she was a girl in Peru, precociously fascinated with the artisan silversmiths, potters, furniture makers and weavers in and around Lima.

"There's simply no substitute for handcrafted items," Jordan says. "They evoke texture, warmth and luxury. You appreciate their quality and each item's individual qualities every time you touch it."

TURN TO PAGE 51 >



PARTY PROS' TIPS ON PAGES 56-57

LESLIE SBROCCO

Left, author of "Wine for Women"

SANDRA JORDAN

Right, owner of Jordan Winery, Healdsburg

CATHERINE BERGEN

Proprietor of Tulocay's Made in Napa Valley food company

ERIC LEE

Chef at Simi Winery, Healdsburg

ELAINE BELL

Elaine Bell Catering