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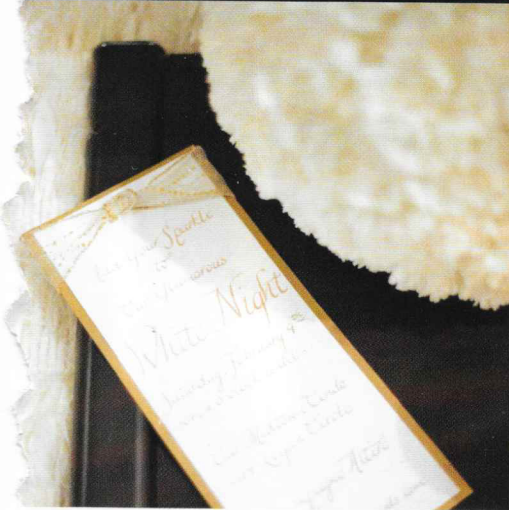


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hy should festivities end with the holidays? The long, cold nights of winter allow for an earlier start to an intimate dinner illuminated by soft candlelight. Guests will enjoy debuting their new, sparkling gifts and wearing luxurious clothes.

Dressing up will become an occasion in itself—and an unexpected indulgence in a private home, where guests can curl up on a sofa, kick off their Manolos, and sip Champagne. Set a tone of subtle decadence with an elegant invitation. Handwritten invitations let guests know the evening will be exceptional—without the daunting formality of a printed card. Taking cues from the palette of the winter season, plan a setting of white, gold, and silver—and suggest guests dress accordingly. The subtle theme creates a romantic ambience. An extravagant tablescape adds drama, ensuring the night will be memorable. **See Resources**



MAKING A SCENE

Create several inviting conversational settings that take your guests from cocktails to dinner to after-dinner drinks that last long into the evening. Our vignettes pull together textures of white, gold, and silver with elements of nature. Tortoiseshell chargers are topped with gold-accented china on a table sparkling with beaded placemats. Gold and silver ornaments from Neiman Marcus, an instant centerpiece arranged in a wire basket, anchor a posh and inviting table. On the right, a dramatic display of natural elements combines moss- and feather-covered spheres, birds' nests, ornaments, Nambé silver candlesticks, and a stunning Janice Minor Horn with votives. It is always the details that take any occasion from expected to magical.

