

Williamsburg®

DECORATING TIPS

Christmas Casual

Tips For Hosting An Informal Holiday Brunch



The 12 days between Christmas and New Year's was a festive family time of games, balls, and—best of all—feasts for Virginia colonists. While today we do our celebrating in the weeks leading up to Christmas, getting the family together for a big meal is still a highlight of the festivities. A brunch is a fantastic way to lighten up and focus more on having a good time than serving six courses. It's an opportunity to feature a mixture of foods and decorations that appeal to both the young and the young at heart!

When I think of brunch, I envision a large table or a sideboard adorned with a beautiful array of dishes. Decorating the WILLIAMSBURG serpentine iron form on a sideboard is an easy way to create either a lush backdrop for your delicacies or a proportional centerpiece for a long table. Adorned with an assortment of brightly colored fruits and pineapples and accented with greens and holly, this simple arrangement will add to the beauty of your table without dominating it.



Everyone loves a gift, especially at the holidays. Party favors are a great way to thank a friend or family member for coming to share in your festivities. When they take home this little keepsake, it will always remind them of the good time they had. One of my favorites is to place an ornament—appropriate to your theme—at each place setting; if you aren't creating place settings, you could hang them on each chair instead. A simple, timeless ornament works well. And if you're crafty enough to offer something handmade, all the better.



Holiday-themed dinnerware can really set the mood for your event. The market is so full of fun and attractive seasonal dinnerware, even for a "purist" it can be hard to resist. Even if you just incorporate a holiday serving plate or two, the addition of some themed china can make your table look all the more festive.



Add a bit of the colonies on your menu—mulled spiced cider and cranberry muffins epitomize this time of year. The scent of the cider alone puts me in the mood to decorate a tree! Try mixing cranberries into your pancakes—you can save leftover berries for the kids to string on the tree. And don't forget the classic Virginia staple . . . no brunch is complete without ham biscuits.



Fresh holly makes a wonderful and inexpensive holiday decoration. We talk about using it on mantles, windows, wreaths, and centerpieces, but how about adding a sprig on your desserts? Simple desserts like brownies or plain cake look professionally "dressed up" when adorned with fresh foliage. Just make sure to wash your holly before it touches the food, and let your guests know it's not edible!

