



ENTERTAINING



PHOTOGRAPHY
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NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF GRATITUDE—a welcome chance to pause and count our blessings before the hectic festivities of the holiday season begin. But, while most of us traditionally make time to celebrate with family, the people who sometimes truly keep us sane—our friends—tend to fall by the wayside. ✨ This season, add a new postmodern tradition to your Thanksgiving celebrations with an intimate dinner party for your friends. Like your best single girlfriend, the event should be warm, welcoming and more than a little stylish. Forgo traditional table linen for a swath of striking faux fur and create visual depth by grouping glowing glass candleholders with tableware in rich bronze hues. Inject holiday sparkle and humor with found materials (a branch, a pomegranate, even a corn husk) coated in 24-karat luxe gold paint and jaunty fur wine-glass collars, created with fabric scraps and double-stick tape. Place framed photos of your friends—the evening’s true centerpiece—interspersed with favorite quotes or poems, around the table. In lieu of place cards, lure your friends to their seats with wish boxes—elegant favors holding a string of personally selected charms and handwritten notes detailing your hopes for each guest in the year ahead. ✨ The menu, too, should be a bit unconventional. Consider a traditional fall feast with a Mediterranean twist (for some tasty recipes, such as a Winter Squash and Pequillo Pepper Soup with



An Evening of Gratitude

THANK GOOD FRIENDS WITH
A NEW HOLIDAY TRADITION
BY KELLEY L. MOORE



This spread, clockwise from left: layer your table with rich, organic materials and fall’s warm copper and gold hues. Kelley L. Moore relaxes with friends. Personalized “wish boxes” will become treasured keepsakes.



Anchovy Crostini, by Brasa chef Tamara Murphy, visit nwhomeandgarden.com). Simplify your wine pick by visiting Seattle-based Web site vinado.com, where an interactive recipe-pairing system ensures that you'll strike just the right note. ✱ Most importantly, begin the evening with a toast—raising your glass to the friends who add comfort and spice to your life. Tell a funny, or sentimental, story about each guest, explaining what her friendship means to you (just beware of tears). A moment of sincere appreciation will be the perfect kick-off for a fete that promises to be every bit as fabulous as your friends. ✚

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the goods ✱ **PAGE 22:** Taking a cue from fall's fashion trends, Moore layered the table with organic materials in warm copper and gold hues, including an animal hide (\$685), amber glassware (\$48 each) and golden bubble votives (\$32 each) from Veritables Decor (2806 E Madison; 206.322.7782); Marrakech dinnerware from Crate & Barrel (\$12.95–\$14.95; 2680 NE 49th St., 206.937.9939; 555 Bellevue Square NE, 425.646.8900; crateandbarrel.com); and tall Vance Kitira rock candlesticks from Tableau (\$32; 2220 NW Market St.; 206.782.5846). **PAGE 23:** Show your friends how much they mean to you with personalized wish boxes containing thoughtful charms and handwritten notes. Dress up inexpensive white matchboxes

(\$1.35 each, Packaging Specialties, 515 S Michigan St., 206.762.0540; 2560 152nd Ave. NE, 425.885.0264; ps-stores.com) with handmade paper (\$4.49 per sheet, Paper Zone, 1911 First Ave. S; 206.682.8644; paperzone.com), then attach a pretty ribbon pull (50 cents per yard, Packaging Specialties) with a dot of glue. Nestle a string of personalized charms (50 cents–\$2, Bead World, 9520 Roosevelt Way NE; 206.523.0530) in tissue paper and top off with your guests' names inscribed in an elegant font ("Porcelain" font shown) on a card. **THIS PAGE:** Keep your tabletop look streamlined by choosing frames no bigger than 4-by-6-inches and painting them gold (\$22 each at Queen Anne Frame, 1621 Queen Anne Ave. N; 206.281.0054).



Clockwise from top: Long-time friend and employee, Chelsea Hixon, reads Moore's coming-year wishes for her. A spicy winter squash soup. Three-month old party dog, Tough Guy Tony. Spanish cheeses plated with fig and apricot bread and Marcona almonds. Arrange favorite photos and quotes around the table to create an intimate aura.

