

Welcome to summer. It's that fabulous time of year when things get hectic, but there's the promise of extended time with family and friends, and a chance to attack the pile of books you have been promising to read all year. I have multiple stacks of reading material in more than one room - I am a little too ambitious in what I think I can get through! In Australia, at least, the time between Christmas and New Year, for many of us, is when emails slow down, and people are prepared to wait for a reply. I realise many of our readers work in essential services and other demanding jobs that require you to be on call over the holiday season, and we are so grateful to you. Whether you love this time of year for the spiritual aspect, the time spent with loved ones, or just the chance to relax, we have lots in store in this issue to get you ready.

Gift giving can be fraught, but we have plenty of ideas to make it easy, starting on page 45 you'll find an abundance of gorgeous gift suggestions from our stylist Sophie Wilson, then there's gifts for art lovers on page 60, and some special finds for gardeners on page 186. You'll also find invaluable advice on table setting from stylista Steve Cordony on page 58, and Christmas tree suggestions from our resident gardener, Mike Booth, on page 188. We have included two beautiful gift-wraps for you – a collaboration with design doyenne and textile lover Tigger Hall. And if you need more wrapping inspiration, Sophie tackles awkward shapes on page 64. You can use a mix of gift-wraps and fabrics to keep and reuse. I pride myself on turning all sorts of things into wrapping paper, including boxes and shopping bags. Beautiful tea towels are another way to wrap a gift while giving the recipient an extra treat. Jars are also fabulous. Gift-wrapping can be like therapy if you set aside enough time!

Stylist Imogen Naylor, who features in our 'At Home With' story, is no stranger to outstanding presentation – her work for major Australian clients, including King Living, sees her styling and producing beautiful imagery, and she has done that in her own home, see page 19. If thinking about what you are going to serve on Christmas Day gets your stress levels rising, surrender now. Amanda Cordony has designed a delicious menu that looks stunning and will please everyone, see page 81. If you love candles, you must read Vianney Hunter's 'The Creative Type' on page 194. Her Hunter Candles come in an exquisite range of fragrances, and she has collaborated with some trailblazing creatives, including chefs, to craft unique offerings. You can even have your vessel refilled, assuaging the guilt of collecting too many votives. If you are still stuck for a gift, one of the best has to be a subscription to *House & Garden*. Each month when the magazine arrives, your friend will think of you, which is such a lovely ongoing connection. Best wishes from the *H&G* team for a wonderful festive season!



EDITOR'S TOP PICKS







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WISH LIST 1 Serving plate, \$340, Alex and Trahanas. 2 'Panini' side chair in Palladium, POA, Janus et Cie. 3 Scented 'December' candle, \$55, Hunter Candles. 4 'The Daintree – Tropical Flowers' umbrella in Retro Scallops, \$2495, Original

Parasol Co. **5** Kubu **planter** in Kubu Grey, \$169.95, Provincial Home Living.



Christmas tree, Dural Christmas Tree Farm. Bows made from 'Cleo' fabric in Brass, \$88/m, Warwick Fabrics. Gold-lined glass baubles (15cm), \$20.95 each, Two Turtle Doves. Australian House & Garden 'Eucalyptus' woven round tree collar in White (63cm), \$99.99, Myer. Gifts wrapped in 'Olive Meadows/Summer Florals' wrapping paper, \$29.95/four sheets, Bespoke Letterpress. 'Bella' urn, \$2420, Sophie Davies. Wreath, Grandiflora. Tablecloth made from 'Eastbourne' fabric in Sage, \$66/m, Warwick Fabrics. 'Sea Fan' bowl, \$276/large, Janus et Cie. 'Tarlo' beeswax tapers, \$23 each, and 'Lola' candleholders in Brushed Brass, \$55/three, Studio Billie. Gold bell, \$38, Walter G 'Uluwatu Tahoe' cushion, \$148, and 'Lucca Azure' cushion in Moss, \$160, all Pepperwhites. Gold finial baubles, from \$14.95 each, Two Turtle Doves. 'Amalfi' armchair, POA, Janus et Cie. Rug, for similar try Afghan fine 'Zigler' rug (364x261cm), \$30,000, Cadrys.





MASCULINE EDGE

1 'Hale' side table in White Wash, \$1850, Zenn Design. 2 19th-century still-life artwork with yellow petals, \$1200, Vintage Art Emporium.

3 Purple Label pre-tied velvet bow tie, \$349, Ralph Lauren. 4 Italian beaded oval plate in Burnt Sienna, \$295, Tigmi Trading. 5 Perris Monte Carlo 'Oud Imperial' fragrance, \$249/100ml, Libertine Parfumerie. 6 1940s oak daybed, \$7200, The Vault Sydney. 7 Thom Sweeney cotton-twill pyjama set in Light Blue, \$910, Mr Porter. 8 Fornasetti 'Architecture' tall candle, \$579, Libertine Parfumerie. 9 Australian House & Garden 'Eucalyptus' striped ornament in White, \$9.99, Myer. 10 Paloma Contreras 'Olivier' medium table lamp in Antique Brass, \$1690, The Montauk Lighting Co. 11 '149' leather bag in Burgundy, \$3520, Montblanc. 12 'Boxford' toiletry case in Brown canvas, \$220, Longchamp.

13 Studio HAOS lounge chair, POA, Tigmi Trading. 14 'Porter' cabin plus trolley, \$5395, Gucci.

OPPOSITE 'Garzas Blancas' canvas print (120x90cm), \$580, Love After Love. 'Madre Wishbone' live edge dining table, \$4995, Coco Republic. Copeland dining chair in Olive, \$705, GlobeWest. 'Lido' linen cushion in Tobacco, \$148, Walter G. 'Air Bullet' pot in White, \$575/large, Garden Life. Colorscope 'Deco design 1' rug in Taupe (160x230cm), \$1452, Cadrys. 'Roma' pedestal bowl in Granite, \$415, Janus et Cie. 'Le Foulonné' small leather briefcase in Caramel, \$950, Longchamp. Wrapping paper and bows, as before. On table Aged medium terracotta pot, \$350, Watertiger. Cypress Christmas garland, \$149.95, Pepperwhites. Byredo 'Night Veils Rouge Chaotique' eau de parfum, \$463/50ml, and Diptyque 'Eau Capitale' eau de parfum, \$274/75ml, Mecca. Antique French books, \$160/three, Love After Love. Bottega Veneta 'BV1128S 002' sunglasses in Gold, \$655, Eyewear Index. Sterling silver tumblers, POA, W.J.Sanders. 'The Bird' single malt whiskey, \$200, Bird in Hand. 'Twister' lamp base, \$2200, and shade, \$450, Sophie Davies. ▶

