

THE ART OF LIVING WELL | DECEMBER 2008

INDULGE

Only the Finest

FINE CHINA SETS THE TABLE AND THE MOOD

by Lori K. Tait

INDULGE

EDITOR'S NOTE

The holidays mean something different to everyone. Some people instantly think of Neiman Marcus' Christmas Book, while others reminisce about family trips to the local Christmas tree lot. No matter what visions of sugarplums come to mind, I'm willing to bet if you ask around, you'll find that almost everyone enjoys a good holiday party.

Keeping that in mind, we talked with Sarah Malik, an associate professor at The Hospitality College of Johnson & Wales University, to find out how best to entertain during the holiday season. Her recipe for a successful gathering? A mix of good friends and a good mixed drink.

We also scoured the city looking for the best china patterns to complement the ultimate dinner party, the best clutches to carry to a dinner party, and the best gifts to give the man who accompanies you to a dinner party. Regardless of how you celebrate the holidays, we hope you make wonderful new memories as you indulge your friends and family during the season.

As always, we welcome your ideas and thoughts regarding **INDULGE**. Please send them to Joyce Marco, Director of Strategic Publications, at jmarco@charlotteobserver.com.

Lori K. Tate

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Snap, Crackle, Pop

Created by Charlotte designer Martha Clifford, The Anna Select clutch from M. Clifford evokes a sophisticated look with its silver crackle exterior and signature red wide band (not shown). The Anna Select by M. Clifford, \$295, [Coco Flout, www.cocoflout.com](http://CocoFlout.com).

