



Table settings build a romantic mood

Whether they're young or mature, innocent or worldly, brides and grooms plunge into a round of rituals, from the most intimate tete a tete to the most public wedding.

Each ritual demands its own style, its own notion of romance.

Tiffany and Company and Brunschwig & Fils joined forces, and recently created a series of wedding party table settings which encompass not only fine porcelain, flatware and linen, but modern notions of entertaining as well.

These settings mix beauty with comfort, ritual with informality, food with liquor in styles that are both sophisticated and adaptable. Each setting is designed to provide a feast for the eye as well as the stomach.

These suggested settings range from creating an intimate dining atmosphere for the bride and groom to meeting traditional family obligations with a flair that couples elegance with pleasant informality.

ROMANCE BEGINS at close quarters, and "Courtin' the Groom" setting for two is refined seduction. Nestled on the floor or on plump, cozy pillows, the couple court in the quiet serenity of an Oriental motif. The low table is a deep blue lacquered one of rattan, with the color echoed in the chintz pillows, and in the single cobalt irises placed on the napkins. Crystal is set for claret, champagne, and a robust red wine. The china, replete with soup bowls, bread and butter plates, and the flatware, is set for a five-course dinner, of perhaps vichyssoise, asparagus vinaigrette, broiled shad roe, fresh strawberry sherbet, and baby palmettes.

A Chinese wedding basket holds the coffee, and individual decanters let each person pour his own. Potpourri is tucked into a tiny silver vase, so its perfume lingers and seduces.

Meeting future in-laws is easiest when the mood is soft, warm, and gracious, and ideally lit by candlelight. "His Parents' Dinner" takes place at night, on proper chairs, at a perfectly dressed table of brown and pale coral ikat print — a color combination that is classic and sophisticated. The table is lit by slender white tapers. The first course, a soup, is served in a whimsical trompe l'oeil cabbage tureen. The warm reddish brown of pussy willows mixes with wild flowers, and held in stoneware vases. This table setting dispels the formality of the ritual because the earthy stoneware vases, the pussy willows and the tureen lend warmth to the occasion. They don't intimidate. They invite.

THE GARDEN wedding, replete with fresh flowers and luxuriant vines, is perhaps the most romantic and least unfettered wedding, warmed, as it is, by the sun. Tiffany and Brunschwig suggest a plethora of wild flowers and roses, from the palest pink sugar roses which trim the cake, to the bouquets splashed across the porcelain, and the chintz, and the fresh ones placed casually in a crystal bud vase.

The sunshine gleams from the crystal, the flatware, and especially the sterling silver marriage cup, which the couple will use to drink a toast.

Tiffany and Company Brunschwig & Fils created these table settings not as exact models to be imitated, but to suggest ways of creating romantic moods

by borrowing from the Orient, mixing the elegance of white tapered candles with the informality of pussy willows in a stoneware jug, or accentuating the

flowers that bloom in the spring. Wedding parties are romance and the greatest romantics are the people with style.

Food and intimate conversation mix well in this Oriental setting with a low blue lacquered table set for a five-course dinner. Fine stone, crystal and sterling silver accessories are from Tiffany & Co. "Cerfs Volants" and "Albi" glazed chintzers are Brunschwig & Fils.

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