

THE ONLY GUIDE YOU NEED TO BUYING ANTIQUE, VINTAGE AND UNIQUE GIFTS

# HOMES & Antiques

**WIN**  
A LUXURY  
NEW YEAR  
BREAK WORTH  
£3,000

*All that glitters*

Brilliant gold touches to give your home instant Christmas glamour

## **JEWELLERY SPECIAL**

Contemporary and antique designs for you to collect now

**426**

IDEAS FOR CREATING A

*magical  
Christmas*

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**AUCTION TIPS**

**RAYMOND BLANC**  
HIS PASSION FOR  
EASTERN ANTIQUES

## **CELEBRITY CHEFS**

REVEAL THEIR TIPS FOR  
FESTIVE ENTERTAINING



Amara mixes things up with Ittala's 'Taika' china (from £21) and plain 'Teema' plates and bowls (from £15). An eclectic flourish of LSA and Lexington glassware (from £16.50) plus statement gold and white candleholders (from £24) complete the look.

## 5 CHOOSE STATEMENT TABLEWARE

Fine crockery goes hand-in-hand with elegant dining, while stoneware offers a homely appeal. Rather than using a matching service, interior designer Rachel Bates advocates 'mixing china, crystal, cutlery and even antique pieces, to make things more exciting – after all Christmas is a celebration and there are another 364 days in which to be ordinary!' Treasured traditional designs, such as by Herend

and Wedgwood, take on a fresh new look when partnered with plains; and classic white or creamware conjures up the latest eclecticism when accented with colour or pattern.

'An array of sparkling glasses is an elementary part of any table setting at Christmas,' says Nicola Wilson of Denby. Rather than sticking to a matching set, water, wine, champagne and aperitif glasses can, as with crockery, be used to introduce contrasting statement or antique pieces to your table.