

Fashion PLATES

FROM FABULOUS FLORALS TO A TOUCH OF FRANCE, FIND INSPIRATION FOR YOUR RECEPTION FROM THE PRETTIEST PLACE SETTINGS

Whether it is a sleek dinner plate or a beloved heirloom, like your grandmother's teacup, inspiration for your reception tables can be found in the china cabinet. Florists and designers often look to serving vessels such as milk jars and antique carafes for décor, so why not take it one step further and turn beautiful place settings—available to rent or buy—into the launching point for your wedding style? Let the colors, patterns and moods set the tone for invitations, escort cards, cakes and stunning floral displays.

STYLED BY **RACHEL HOLLIS** TEXT BY **LARA M. BURNAP**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **HAYLEY YOUNG**

A Blooming Start

Adorned with delicate cherry blossoms, this place setting creates a sophisticated and romantic mood. To set the tone from the beginning, Erica Keuter designed the invitation in a vibrant palette of pinks, turquoise and gold. "The china set a modern yet traditional backdrop for the invitation to include bold colors and gold textures," explains Keuter. "I am a big believer in mixing patterns, so I created a gold and white pattern as the liner, and incorporated elements of the china pattern into the invite wrap and place card." The font is organically placed on the card to mimic the placement of the blossom on the china.

INVITATIONS: Erica Keuter Designs **LINEN:** Light pink satin lamour from Designer Specialty Linens **CHINA:** Madison fine china by Cru Dinnerware, \$29-90, at Macy's



The French Connection

Francophiles? Let them eat cake. Inspired by the fleur-de-lis stamp on these clean, white French farmhouse-style plates, Andrea Boudewijn of Studio City's Superfine Bakery created a lemon-soaked cake with blood orange buttercream. "The flavor features fresh farm fruit, harkening to the amazing meals served outdoors in Provence," says Boudewijn. "The fleur-de-lis gave it an elegant French feel, so I wanted to keep the cake simple." Tiny sugar pearls border each tier while a single sugar fleur-de-lis accents the third tier.

CAKE: Citrus cake from Superfine Bakery **LINEN:** Purple Smoke shantung from BBJ Linen **CHINA:** Fleur De Lys stoneware plates, \$12-16, from Anthropologie



Purple Reign

The gold filigreed vine around the plate's rim sets a delicate, rich mood. "The china's pattern and the linen's dark tones are reflective of the 17th century," explains florist Alison Franchi of Los Angeles' Le Petite Gardenia. "We wanted it to look like a still life painting." The vessel is arranged with marginata, amaranthus, arabicum, astilbe, cobra lilies, trachelium, eucalyptus pods, hydrangeas, scabiosa pods, ferns, lotus pods and dahlias. Silverware with inlaid mother-of-pearl handles and a gold-scripted escort card finish the look.

FLATWARE: Vintage Pearl silverware from Town & Country Event Rentals **FLORALS:** Le Petite Gardenia **LINEN:** Chocolate Lamour from BBJ Linen **CHINA:** Victorian Gold porcelain plates from Classic Party Rentals **PLACE CARD:** Erica Keuter Designs





Mix and Match

Lovers of mismatched vintage dishware can tie the look together with strong, unique floral arrangements. "This type of mix-and-match setting is a great opportunity to incorporate family heirlooms or beloved pieces," says Hollis of the various pieces of vintage china featuring shades of burgundy, teal and forest green with gold accents. Set the mood from the moment you say "I do" with this lovely floral pom, which can serve as a ceremonial backdrop, be hung from chandeliers or even be used as a nontraditional bridal bouquet. The dramatic floral display uses a gold birdcage as the form upon which calla lilies, paper flowers, succulents, vintage jewelry, western cedar and skeleton leaves are added. The materials are woven together to create an abstract floral display and strung from above by a string of pearls.

FLORALS: Le Petite Gardenia

CHINA: Antique china in various designs from The Vintage Table Co. rentals



Garden Party

If a clean and simple place setting is your preference, but you love a pop of flowers, then let a bold linen make a stunning statement. This brightly floral tablecloth has a medley of red, pink, green, turquoise and navy that provides a springboard for a variety of color palettes. "With a simple piece of china, go for the wow factor with linens," advises Hollis. A cobalt blue dinner plate rests atop a charger with an ornate gold band—adding a metallic elegance to the scene.

CHINA: Cobalt blue porcelain plate and Golden Opulence glass charger from Town & Country Event Rentals **LINEN:** Carlisle Lamour from BBJ Linen