

Kids Help Phone 

17th
**Homes for
the Holidays**



Presented
by **N NICOLA**
W E A L T H

Cover Image: Janis Nicolay Photography

Perfect Presents

7 Pro Gift Wrapping Tricks to Make
Your Packages Look Even Better

Favourite Films for the Holidays

15 Holiday Movies for
Every Family

Staging Your Home

Professional Tips for
Staging Your Home

Holiday Traditions

The Origins of Decorating



DESIGNERS *take on* *Holiday Decorating*

A Virtual Tour of Homes in Greater Vancouver and Whistler

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Kids Help Phone is Canada's only 24/7 e-mental health service offering free, confidential support in English and French to young people. As the country's virtual care expert, we give millions of youth a safe, trusted space to talk over phone or through text or in self-directed supports in any moment of crisis or need.

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Kids Help Phone's Homes for the Holidays features homes in the territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the ancestral lands of the x̱məθkwəy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Səlilwítlh (Tsleil-Waututh). We acknowledge and respect all the traditional territories in which we benefit from and the many Indigenous Peoples who now make this place their home.

Kids Help Phone



Presented by



November 20th -
December 5th

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Kids Help Phone

COVID-19 has been an incredibly difficult mental health challenge for young people, and the numbers tell the story: **we had a quarter-million life-changing interactions with young people across BC in 2020, more than double the number who reached out in 2019.** Thanks to the generosity of our compassionate supporters, through virtual events like Homes for the Holidays, Kids Help Phone is able to be there for every single young person who needs us in any community across BC and Canada.

Aaron Sanderson
Senior Vice President,
Advancement & Chief Development Officer,
Kids Help Phone



Now, more than ever, **a future in which every single young person in Canada has access to the mental health support they need** – at the very moment they need it – **is within reach.**

Perfect Presents

7 Pro Gift Wrapping Tricks to Make Your Packages Look Even Better

You know how to wrap a gift, but are your presents truly spectacular? Do people stop to admire them before tearing off the paper? Follow these simple pro secrets to take your wrapping skills from pretty good to pretty amazing and impress everyone on your gift list.



BY CORINNA VANGERWEN,
GIFT SPECIALIST
CORINNAVANGERWEN.COM

1 Choose good materials in good shape

This doesn't necessarily mean you have to spend lots, but be conscious of whether your materials look cheap or old. See-through paper is no good (unless that's the look you're going for), and when it comes to tape, dollar-store stuff just doesn't stick. Reusing materials is a nice idea, but avoid torn tissue, wrinkled ribbons, and worn out papers and gift bags.



2 Measure the right amount of paper

Paper should be large enough to wrap around the box with a little bit of overlap, plus enough overhang on either side to cover the ends of the box. Too much paper gets in the way and you end up with wrinkles and bulges; too little paper and, well, you can't cover your box.

5 Make crisp, straight folds

to achieve a tidy look. If you have trouble getting a straight line, place a ruler on the paper and fold over it. Use the back of your fingernail or a bone folder to make the crease sharp.

3 Pull paper tightly around the box

You don't need to pull the paper as tight as a corset, but it should be snug and lie flat to avoid unsightly creases, gaps and bubbles.

6 Use double-sided tape whenever possible

Having the tape hidden makes for a less cluttered look. Note that double sided tape won't stick to some papers, in which case you should test both clear tape as well as invisible tape to find which one shows less.

4 Fold over exposed edges

of paper, both along the seam at the back and at either end. This hides crooked cuts for a cleaner look.

7 Cut ribbon ends cleanly

So they don't fray, cut fabric ribbons on an angle using sharp scissors.



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15 Holiday Movies for Every Family

It can be hard to make decisions as a family, and picking a holiday movie to watch together is no exception

All the streaming platforms at our fingertips are great, but it truly can be overwhelming and hard to find movies for everyone to enjoy. But never fear, we've got you covered. Below is an assortment of fifteen movies for all moods and ages, for some much needed downtime cuddling up with friends and family. Happy Holidays!

Lil Kids

A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)

Since you're already listening to the soundtrack

A rare Christmas short for kids that is unafraid to wade into adult melancholy, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* asks some pretty big questions: What is Christmas, beyond the sum of its parts? And after its extreme commercialization, where does the spirit of Christmas lie? By exploring this feeling of yearning for something deeper so effortlessly, the film ultimately lands on the satisfying answer that the Christmas spirit can be found quite simply in the act of coming together and finding joy and meaning in each other's presence.

RATING: 4.5/5 SAD LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREES



The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)

To watch what is objectively the best Dickens adaptation

Many have tried to adapt the famous Charles Dickens novella, but none have succeeded half so well as the Jim Henson Company. The casting of Michael Caine as Ebenezer Scrooge, with beloved Muppet characters filling out the rest of the roles, is inspired, the movie swinging perfectly from the joyful to the camp to the ominous—whatever the story requires. With great musical numbers and touching explorations of what it means to show care for others and to look back on a life well lived, *The Muppet Christmas Carol* is truly enjoyable fun for all ages.

RATING: 10/10 BAH HUMBUGS

How The Grinch Stole Christmas! (1966)

To whet your appetite for your own roast beast

Like *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, this excellent adaptation of the Dr. Seuss classic reminds us all that Christmas does not lie in its trappings, that "maybe Christmas ... doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." After living through one pandemic Christmas, it's no longer surprising that when every Who down in Whoville woke up to find their Christmas trimmings stolen, they weren't all that upset. Like the Grinch learns that fateful day, we know that it's family and friends that make Christmas complete.

RATING: 3 JING TINGLERS AND 1 BLUM BLOOPER OUT OF 1 GREAT BIG ELECTRO WHOCARDIO SCHLUTZ

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964)

For Burl Ives's soothing snowman narration

Revisiting this old classic is a surprisingly good time, due to the many odd yet iconic additions to the original tale, like Hermes the elf dentist, the griffin



King Moonracer of the Island of misfit toys, prospector Yukon Cornelius, and the Abominable Snow Monster. The absolute best Rankin & Bass special the animation studio ever produced, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* is a wacky adventure that came out of an otherwise simple carol, one that will surely delight kids from one to ninety-two.

RATING: 1 ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP TO THE ISLAND OF MISFIT TOYS

Yogi's First Christmas (1980)

For some good ole' Hanna Barbera slapstick

When Yogi and Boo Boo are awoken from their winter hibernation by the residents of the Jellystone Lodge, the gang teams up to make it a memorable Christmas for owner Mrs. Throckmorton and ensure that she doesn't close down the lodge for good. The bears' first ever Christmas is nothing if not eventful, but ultimately good holiday cheer is able to win over the coldest of hearts. Let Yogi's First Christmas's nostalgic animation lead you on a romp through wintry Jellystone Park.

RATING: 3/3 PIC-A-NIC BASKETS

Bigger Kids

It's A Wonderful Life (1946)

For Jimmy Stewart at his finest

For those who have not yet seen it, *It's A Wonderful Life* can be a tough sell. It's a long movie, and only a quarter of its run time happens during Christmas. And yet, it has persisted as a hallmark of the season for almost eight decades. The fact that it pulls away from being a Christmas movie—a label that director Frank Capra never intended it to have—is a strength, not a weakness. The gritty tension of the film's third act requires that long build up. We, as an audience, need to experience the moments of George Bailey's wonderful life before we can understand why he should fight for it.

RATING: 10/10 ANGEL WINGS



Miracle on 34th Street (1947)

For an enduring classic

Miracle on 34th Street follows a familiar holiday playbook: Doris Walker, a jaded, Scrooge-lite character, must learn the true meaning of Christmas. "Those lovely intangibles of yours [kindness and love and joy] are attractive, but not worth very much. You don't get ahead that way," she says at the beginning of the film, and as a single working mother in the 1940s, you can see how she reached that point. *Miracle on 34th Street* may follow a familiar pattern, but its originality lies in the way it delivers our favourite holiday movie moments through grounded, authentic characters.

RATING: 1 SUCCESSFUL COURT CASE





Klaus (2019)

For a beautiful return to 2D animation

You would think that finding a fresh take on the origins of the Santa tradition would be difficult; Klaus proves otherwise. Though for kids, this charming movie is really for everyone. From the beautiful animation, to the excellent voice acting, to its sheer originality, this holiday movie stands among the other Oscar-nominated films of its year. Even those for whom the Christmas tradition isn't the norm will enjoy the gags, the fun twists, and heart that was put into this tale of friendship, healing, and growth.

RATING: 5/5 SETS OF SILK SHEETS

Tim Burton's Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

For the goth kids

On the surface it might seem odd for a movie about a skeleton who grows bored of Halloween and steals Christmas to so adeptly tackle the heavy topics of burnout and cultural appropriation, but while Jack Skellington might not feel inspired by his own cultural practices anymore, stealing and – poorly – executing his own version of Christmas is no substitute for the real thing. Beautifully designed and with enough great songs to sustain two holiday playlists, the place to be this Christmas might just be Halloweentown.

RATING: 31/25 CLOWNS WITH TEARAWAY FACES

Christmas in Connecticut

(1945)

For a screwball romance as only Barbara Stanwyck can deliver

Slick city magazine writer Elizabeth Lane could not be more different than the Connecticut farmhouse wife and mother she pretends to be in her articles, a slight problem given that returning war hero Jefferson Jones has requested to spend Christmas dinner in her fictitious home. A screwball comedy of errors that makes excellent use of Stanwyck's obvious heart and lightning-fast patter, Christmas in Connecticut follows the two leads as they fall head over heels in love for one another, despite the profound secrets they're both keeping.

RATING: 2/2 FAKE BABIES



Teens & Beyond

Tokyo Godfathers (2003)

To honour our chosen families

Christmas Eve sets the scene for Tokyo Godfathers, in which three homeless friends find an abandoned baby and set off into the night to find her parents. Their journey is anything but easy as they navigate mob hits, poverty, exposure, and their own pasts. Along the way, however, they learn the value of chosen family and begin to heal enough that when their pasts come knocking, they're ready to open the door. With an eleventh-hour, knuckle-clenching miracle that saves all of their lives, the trio is able to return the baby where she belongs and, maybe, have a merry Christmas.

RATING: 1 GET OUT OF A MOB SHOOTING FREE CARD

Tangerine (2015)

For a slice-of-life look at a chaotic Christmas Eve

It's the day before Christmas and Sin-Dee Rella has just finished a 28-day prison stint. She's eager to meet up with her friend Alexandra and confront her cheating boyfriend and pimp, and nothing goes smoothly in this story told over the course of one day. A beautifully shot exploration of deferred dreams, transphobia, and betrayal, the core of the film remains the enduring importance of a friendship that can survive the worst that life throws at you.

RATING: 1 CONCERT IN A LONELY BAR

Little Women (2019)

To spend the holiday with an iconic family

A classic story with beautiful Christmas-time scenes, Little Women is the heart-warming, tear-jerking story of the four March sisters. The most recent adaptation of the beloved tale follows Jo, Amy, Beth, and Meg as they navigate the wartime economics, artistic ambitions,



and love. Fractious sibling relationships are never so well portrayed as when the sisters fight with, betray, make up with, and love each other. There's a reason Little Women is so enduring, and it's largely due to the unshakeable bond between siblings.

RATING: 1 UNBURNED MANUSCRIPT

Carol (2015)

For falling in love with Cate Blanchett

Carol opens in a luxurious department store and maintains that exquisite 1950s glamour throughout its runtime. This slow-burn experience skilfully skirts queer tragedy, opting instead to tell a visually beautiful love story that gives its two protagonists the time and space for moments of happiness, heartache, and passion. Here, Christmas is but a framing device for a universal love story.

RATING: 4.5/5 FORGOTTEN PAIRS OF GLOVES

Last Holiday (2006)

For the simple pleasure of watching Queen Latifah enjoy herself

Georgia Byrd is used to living for the future, scrimping and saving and never allowing herself momentary joy. But when she is diagnosed with a rare brain condition and told she only has weeks to live, something fundamental changes. She grabs her life savings and heads off to a luxury European hotel, the better to eat delicious food, wear amazing fashions, and change the lives of everyone around her. A fun, rom-com-adjacent movie unafraid of some long-overdue hedonism, Last Holiday tells us to enjoy the moment and always go after what we want. It could save a life.

RATING: 10/12 FAULTY CAT SCANS

Honourable Mentions

A Christmas Prince Trilogy (2017–19)

For when you want to hate-watch something so bad it's good.

The Holiday (2006)

For a good rom-com cry.

Home Alone (1990)

For the comfort of watching something you've seen a thousand times before, and McCauley Culkin's face.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)

For Christine Baranski, mostly.

Bell, Book, and Candle (1958)

For even more Jimmy Stewart, this time with witches!

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe (2005)

To satisfy that epic fantasy itch.

The Polar Express (2004)

For a frosty journey into the uncanny valley.



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Staging Your Home For Selling

Are you in the market to sell your home? If so, you may want to take a look at a professional stager to help you in this process.

Many homeowners today are looking to Staging and Redesigning companies to assist them in selling their home. The real estate market is very competitive these days and so it can be advantageous to have a professional edge when it comes to first impressions of your home.

Professional stagers are especially useful if you have already moved out of your home and it remains as an empty space. Most real estate agents will agree that a home with a "lived in" feel is much more attractive to a potential home buyer than one that feels empty and cold.



If this is something that may appeal to you, here is a little of what a professional stager can offer.

Staging companies typically do a "pre-staging" consultation with the homeowner and give them a bit of homework that should be done prior to the actual staging. This would include a list of specific repairs, painting, cleaning and mostly de-cluttering of the home. If required, furniture, accessories and art will be suggested and the option of renting these items can be explored.

Once the property has been prepped, stagers will come in and do their magic. Furniture will be rearranged to best suit each room, opening up spaces. It's possible that art will be re-hung and accessories moved to create focal points. Ideally, stagers will arrange furnishings to highlight the property's best features and attempt to downplay the weaker aspects of the home. Typically one to two days is all that is required and the property would be photo ready for advertising.

As far as pricing goes, to have a team of stagers come into your home for the day would depend on the size and scope of the project. An initial in-home consultation is the best way to get an idea of the costs and time involved. A fee for a "pre-staging" consultation can start anywhere from \$100 plus HST and usually takes about an hour to complete.

It's important for homeowners to understand that stagers will come into your home with an objective eye. One must think of staging as a part of the marketing plan for selling their property. It is not a decorator service as many would think but rather a strategic service offering a perspective from a majority of buyers and what they would like to see inside the home in order for them to envision themselves living in the space.

If you have any questions about staging and how it may benefit you contact **Barb Lunter** at lunter@shaw.ca or view her website at www.bludogstagingandredesign.com



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When Nicola Wealth opened its doors, the then-small team was keen to shake up the wealth management industry.

At the time, the same old advice was offered to everyone: invest. Chairman and CEO John Nicola recognized that his clients—high net-worth families, foundations and entrepreneurs—had more complex needs than that, and aimed to address them with more complex advice to match.

At the time, the same old advice was offered to everyone: invest. Chairman and CEO John Nicola recognized that his clients—high net-worth families, foundations and entrepreneurs—had more complex needs than that, and aimed to address them with more complex advice to match.

The firm champions its clients and its employees by making it easier for them to be philanthropic. “We have a strong culture of giving back,” says Sophia Ito, a financial advisor and wealth planner with Nicola Wealth. The charitable giving committee, Nicola Wealth Gives Back, has worked primarily with children’s charities since its founding in 2010. The firm came to be connected with Kids Help Phone when John and Claire Nicola volunteered their Vancouver home, which was done up in the wintery hues of white and silver, for the 2012 Homes for the Holidays tour.

Nicola Wealth recognizes that people want to make charitable donations, but it may not be practical to set up their own foundations. They created their Private Giving Foundation for the explicit purpose of helping their clients be philanthropic without having to jump through the associated hurdles.

“Often times the donation is more impulsive than deliberate or planned,” says Ito. But by investing capital in a donor-advised fund, like one Nicola Wealth can help you set up through their Private Giving Foundation, you can map out your giving by making the donation as a lump sum and dispersing the money to charities later as the need arises.

This is especially helpful not just for donors looking to spread their good fortune without tax consequences, but for recipients of much-needed donations as well. “You want to make sure that you meet the giving needs when it’s required because it’s a cyclical time,” says Ito. “Holidays are very natural...but if you’re thinking about [donating], think about not just giving in the month of December.” Ito also cautions against only thinking about making a charitable donation around the holidays because it marks the end of the year, and it’s a time to be looking forward.

As for the impact the pandemic has had on people’s sense of charity, Ito says “It’s been impactful in the sense that many organizations have not received the kind of funding that they had pre-COVID, and so many of these organizations are in desperate need of funds.” Cash-strapped organizations haven’t been able to

help people to the extent they were able to previously. That’s where making a plan for charitable giving is so important.

However, she reflected, many of her clients reached out at the beginning of the pandemic last year asking how they could give to those who were in dire need. “You know when that crisis moment hit with COVID, many of these organizations were in need of funds,” says Ito, “When money is in [the Private Giving Foundation] it’s already given away, now you just have to identify where you want it to go.”

Nicola Wealth has helped not only their clients weather the current fiscal climate but also continued to generously support Kids Help Phone. Their unwavering support of being Presenting sponsor for Homes for the Holidays, allowed the event to evolve with the times and last year pivot into a successful virtual homes tour. The significance of their commitment allowed the annual event to continue to raise essential funds for Canada’s youth mental well being.



BY CHRISTINE BEYLEVELDT

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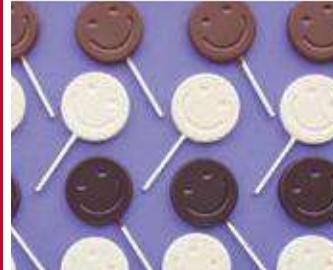
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Change – the kind that promises a better, bolder future for our youth – is underway.

COVID-19 has proven that we can't go back – we can only go forward. In the days immediately following the World Health Organization's declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic, demand for Kids Help Phone's services skyrocketed. In a year defined by uncertainty, Kids Help Phone remained committed to positioning itself as a pioneer for youth in crisis and worked to ensure that young people remain certain that Kids Help Phone is the go-to place they can trust at any time.

As the pandemic swept across the country, Kids Help Phone did not waver. In 2021, Kids Help Phone continues to harness and build upon the accelerated momentum established in 2020 and is on track to surpass five million life-changing connections with young people in communities across Canada by year end. Young people from every province and territory continue to reach out – with worries about their friends and family, about school and about upcoming important milestones.

In these uncertain times the need for accessible e-mental health support remains great.

Kids Help Phone has undergone a transformational journey and continues to be a leading e-mental health solution in Canada. While Kids Help Phone has been able to grow and meet the increase in demand for their services through new e-mental health solutions, they remain committed to doing better.

As part of our commitment to reach more Indigenous youth and offer more culturally sensitive services, Kids Help Phone launched

a successful Indigenous initiative to support First Nations, Inuit and Métis Young People, introduced new key words that allows Indigenous young people to text with an Indigenous crisis responder and for the first time ever, published website content in Indigenous languages! It is vital that Kids Help Phone continues to exemplify the type of organization that is judgement-free and open to anyone from any background, sexual orientation or region – both for the people who need support and for those providing the service.

As the pandemic progressed, Kids Help Phone brought forward new innovations to support young people as they reach out for support. With a goal to remind young people that they're never alone, Kids Help Phone launched a new platform sharing real-time insights from our dataset on youth mental health – the largest in the country. Kids Help Phone Insights is an up-to-date platform featuring national and provincial data, trends and information about the topics and issues young people are experiencing today.

The need for support in rural and remote communities continued to grow. Kids Help Phone then introduced support via Facebook Messenger. Young people can visit Crisis Text Line powered by Kids Help Phone Facebook page and access support through the Messenger App. Youth in remote and rural communities now have an additional access point whenever they need to reach out and get 24/7 support.

This year, it was clear that back-to-school would be a year like no other. During a time of transition and uncertainty as youth re-enter school after months of virtual learning, the Peer-to-Peer Community at Kids Help Phone was launched. The platform is a new, virtual, moderated and supported community created by youth, for youth.

Kids Help Phone collaborated with hundreds of young people 16 – 26 years of age across Canada to co-create this platform. With input every step of the way, young people can now navigate support through authentic, real-life experiences and voices in the "community" with their own peers.

Today, more young people than ever know that Kids Help Phone is there – always.

Thanks to you, and your generous support, Kids Help Phone continues to provide a trusted, non-judgmental, mental health and well-being service to anyone, anywhere and at any time of need. Happy Holidays!

The Kids Help Phone Family

Kids Help Phone 

Kids Help Phone 

17th Homes for the Holidays



Presented by **NICOLA WEALTH**

November 20th - December 5th
ONLINE

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A message from Kids Help Phone 



As we round off five years of participation in the 17th Annual Homes for the Holidays, presented by Nicola Wealth, we are moved by the amount of unity that

this event brings. Designers helping designers, people helping people, all unifying to help Canadian youth mental health. Unity brings us hope, when in the past year and a half the pandemic has shown us how much we are all in this together and need to support each other.



In 2020, our teams of professional counsellors and volunteer crisis responders have interacted with

young people over 4.6 million times, compared to 1.9 million in all of 2019, and conducted 4200 active rescues. Youth are reaching out to us in record numbers. It is thanks to our donors and supporters, and thanks to events like Homes for the Holidays that we can be there for every young person in their moments of crisis or need.

We feel inspired to continue the tradition and present you with a virtual tour like no other, all from the comfort of your space. Whether this is your first year of beginning a new ritual or one you have had for many years before, back to when we could offer you with a live, in-person tour, we express our heartfelt gratitude for you all for tuning in to watch.



Since 1989, Kids Help Phone has relied on generous donations from individuals and organizations in the community who have shared our vision and supported our mission. No matter when, where or how a young person seeks help, your support starts them on the path to finding it. The importance of our programs and services has been emphasized through the challenges of the last two years.

Each and every one of you provides support for this worthy cause by viewing, sponsoring, being on the committee, volunteering, opening your home, and donating to raise funds for Kids Help Phone so that they can be there for those who need it. Together, we can hope to accomplish so much, and together, we hope you enjoy the show!

Thank you to our sponsors, donors, volunteers, participants and attendees, and a special 'thank you' to our mighty Homes for the Holidays Organizing Committee. On behalf of everyone at Kids Help Phone and all the young people we serve, we cannot thank you enough for your commitment to our cause.

Be well,

Trish Knight and Tanya Ali
2021 Co-Chairs – Kids Help Phone's,
Homes for the Holidays

Elena Manica
Director, Community Partnerships
Kids Help Phone



November 20th to
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ONLINE

Home Guide

We are pleased to be hosting the 17th annual Kids Help Phone Homes for the Holidays tour and fundraiser. Come and explore 6 beautiful homes in Greater Vancouver and Whistler, designed in styles ranging from contemporary to traditional. Find décor inspiration for your own home while supporting kids in our community.

Welcome.

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The Reasons You Tour

If I had to narrow it down to one favourite thing about being involved in the Homes for the Holidays tour, it is hearing the tour stories - the reasons people buy tickets, the fun things that happen during the tour, the traditions that are created.



BY LORI SUTHERLAND BURNS,
STUDIO TEN INTERIOR DESIGN LTD.

If I had to pick my favourite post, it was working the hot drinks and nibbles stand at a West Vancouver home two years ago - because of the location of the home, it was often at the end of most people's tour. It was at this post where tour goers lingered in the warm glow of having completed the tour on a chilly weekend afternoon, warm apple cider in hand as they would excitedly tell me which home was their favourite, who they were doing the tour with, and what their story was.... which gave me the idea for this year's article.

Taurra Boucher buys her mom and sister (who live on the island) tickets every year... they sleep over, go for brunch to review the write ups in the magazine before the tour, and dinner after to discuss which homes were their favourite. 'We all look so forward to it, we are on our 6th tour year! It is definitely one of our family traditions now!'

One tour goer I met was very focused... she assessed each home carefully, keeping track of which sponsor supplied the decorations for the homes, so she would know where to buy her holiday decorations (the tour being the last weekend in November is perfect timing).

Jess Xao shared - 'I bought my ticket just after we decided to build a home... my designer asked me if I had a style direction in mind and honestly I was just so overwhelmed... I loved seeing the inside of so many different styles of homes, it really helped me narrow down my decision for my own'.

Once in the late afternoon, about 20 people piled in for hot chocolate all at the same time - at first I was concerned that some would leave, given such a large lineup. It turned out that they all were touring together, and their boss had bought the entire staff tickets for the

tour. 'It's a day out for us to connect with something that is just fun! And knowing that what we pay for the tickets goes direct to a great cause - well that is just icing. We've already decided we're going to do this every year.'

A group of 5 couples came through, and couldn't wait to tell me their tradition - they have a bet every year to see who will predict the winner (the editor from Western Living visits each of the homes on the Friday before the tour, declaring the home that is most deserving to have photos published the following year in their November issue). The couple that wins has their tickets and lunch bought the following year by the other couples, and bragging rights of course.

What's your story?

Please share your experiences with us! What you love most about the tour, why you buy tickets every year, or something about the tour that made you laugh, brought a tear to your eye, or is just plain memorable or meaningful to you. Please let us know whether we can publish your name (if you'd like to remain anonymous that is ok), but we would love to publish these in next year's magazine and share more great tour stories with all of you!

Please send your experiences to:
KHPtourstories@gmail.com

For any stories that are published, the writer will receive a free companion ticket to Homes for the Holidays 2022.... and who knows, maybe we will make publishing your stories a new Homes for the Holidays tradition!

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Celebrating Whimsical Traditions in a Garden Abode



The sound of the gently flowing backyard stream and the light flooding in through floor-to-ceiling windows help fill this West Vancouver family home with a feeling of peace and light despite December's abbreviated days. Whitewashed tones, vintage elements, luxe marble, raw linens, and blush highlights impart a casual but chic sensibility to the space. In the grand foyer, a spectacular floral-scented garland from **Bloomiér** drapes the winding staircase while **Hunters** Christmas trees tower above entranced children in the living and play rooms beyond. The warm glow of the tree lights illuminates the natural-toned decorations from **Little White House** and **Pharmasave Caulfeild Village**.

In the kitchen, another tradition comes to life. Armed with pots of silver sparkles and rose-coloured frosting, the children gather around white quartzite counters for the

annual cookie-decorating contest. The winning confections are then proudly displayed on the fireplace where linen stockings adorn a limestone hearth.

Dinner is served at the harvest table laid with linen and lace and striking blooms complete the beautiful tablescape.

Outside, with florals floating in the pool near a large stone fireplace, it's time for a hot chocolate bomb. Fur throws, knit blankets and linen pillows keep it cozy while lights twinkle all around. A starry night indeed!

When the evening ends, the family drifts off to sleep under soft pink laces, creamy faux furs, and crisp cotton bed linens from **St Genève**. The scent of blossoms and fir wafts up into the bedrooms as the family rests, visions of well-crafted traditions dancing in their heads.



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A Celebration of Winter & Family



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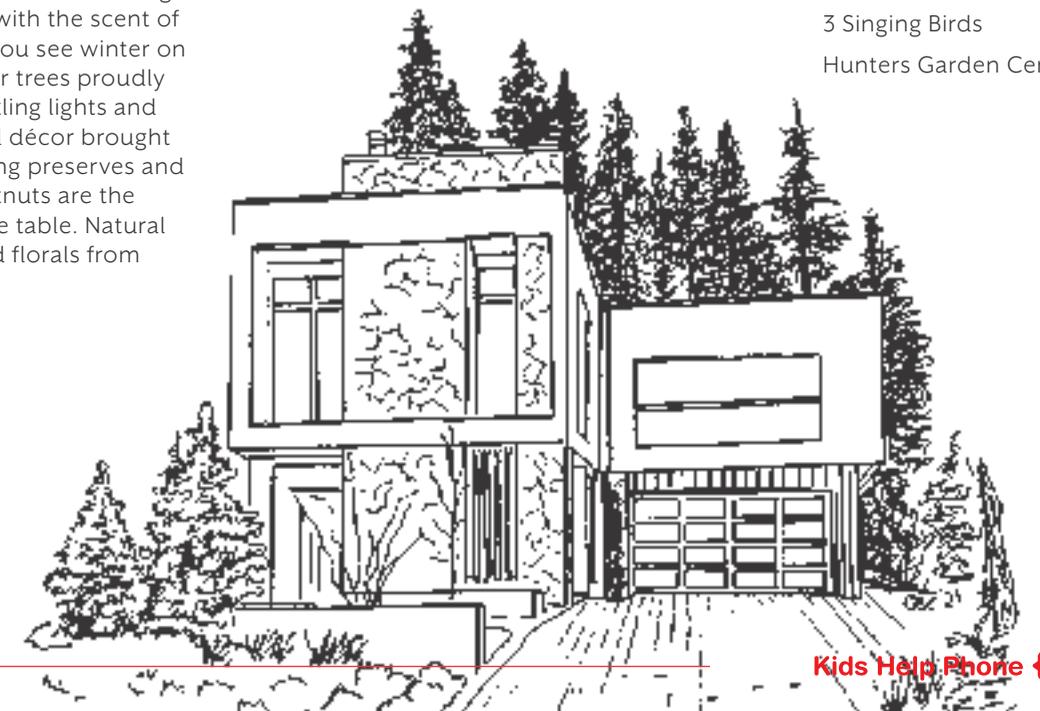
Denise Ashmore,
Project 22 Design Inc.

Suppliers:

- Provide Home
- Cadine
- 3 Singing Birds
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Imagine a scenic coastal drive leading you to a glowing, snow-covered Whistler home. As you pile out of the car, your weekend bag slung over your shoulder and your arms filled with presents, you begin your long-awaited family Christmas. The entry door sparkles as the warm and brilliant windows pull you in. The soft hum of holiday music and conversation escapes from the house as you open the door. Immediately you are welcomed by family and friends. As you make your way upstairs, the warm air from the wood-burning fireplace is filled with the scent of fresh pine. Here you see winter on full display with fir trees proudly showcasing twinkling lights and nature's bountiful décor brought inside. Overflowing preserves and hot roasted chestnuts are the centrepiece of the table. Natural blooms and dried florals from

Cadine adorn unexpected corners. Luxurious everyday décor from **Provide Home** adds a layer of simple holiday elegance. In the kitchen everything is set for the guests to feast. The cocktail bar is ready for action with garnishes and glasses longing to be filled. Gratitude abounds at the table as you are once again able to raise a glass with your loved ones, breaking bread together in celebration of the winter holiday. Welcome home for the holidays – we've missed this so very much!



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Home to *Himmelhus*



With the delicacy of a pencil sketch, *Himmelhus*—Norwegian for 'Sky House'—provides room for your mind to wander. The walls: luminous white contrasting with charcoal grey. The colours: a winter landscape—soft and muted, like the lace of branches against snow. The high ceilings and triangular windows form a transparent peak revealing firs and mountains and clouds. Walk into this space and you can almost feel the sky breathe. Inspired by her Norwegian roots, Colette Soros has created a minimalist but layered tapestry of velvet, brass, wood, and canvas where what you notice is not the impact of any individual item, but the echoing affinities of a stunning, light-filled gestalt. The modern Scandinavian aesthetic and the chiaroscuro palette create a backdrop for traditional Nordic Christmas decorations, their rustic shapes communicating the timelessness of the season.

Candlelight flickers; the smell of cinnamon rises; flowers offer their rich and soothing tones. The children's gifts are wrapped in pale brown paper tied with string and speckled with dried citrus, berries, and herbs. A gingerbread star sits atop a gingerbread tree. And the Christmas tree stands as elegant as a poem. In the hurry and bustle of the holiday season, come visit this thoughtfully curated and easeful hygge East Vancouver home that invites you to put down your worries and to fika: pause and appreciate the moment. The fire is waiting.

Thank you to **Blossom & Vine Floral Co.** for the beautifully bespoke flowers and to **Hunters Garden Centre** for the memory-making tree.



Decorated By:

Colette Soros,
Parliament Interiors

Suppliers:

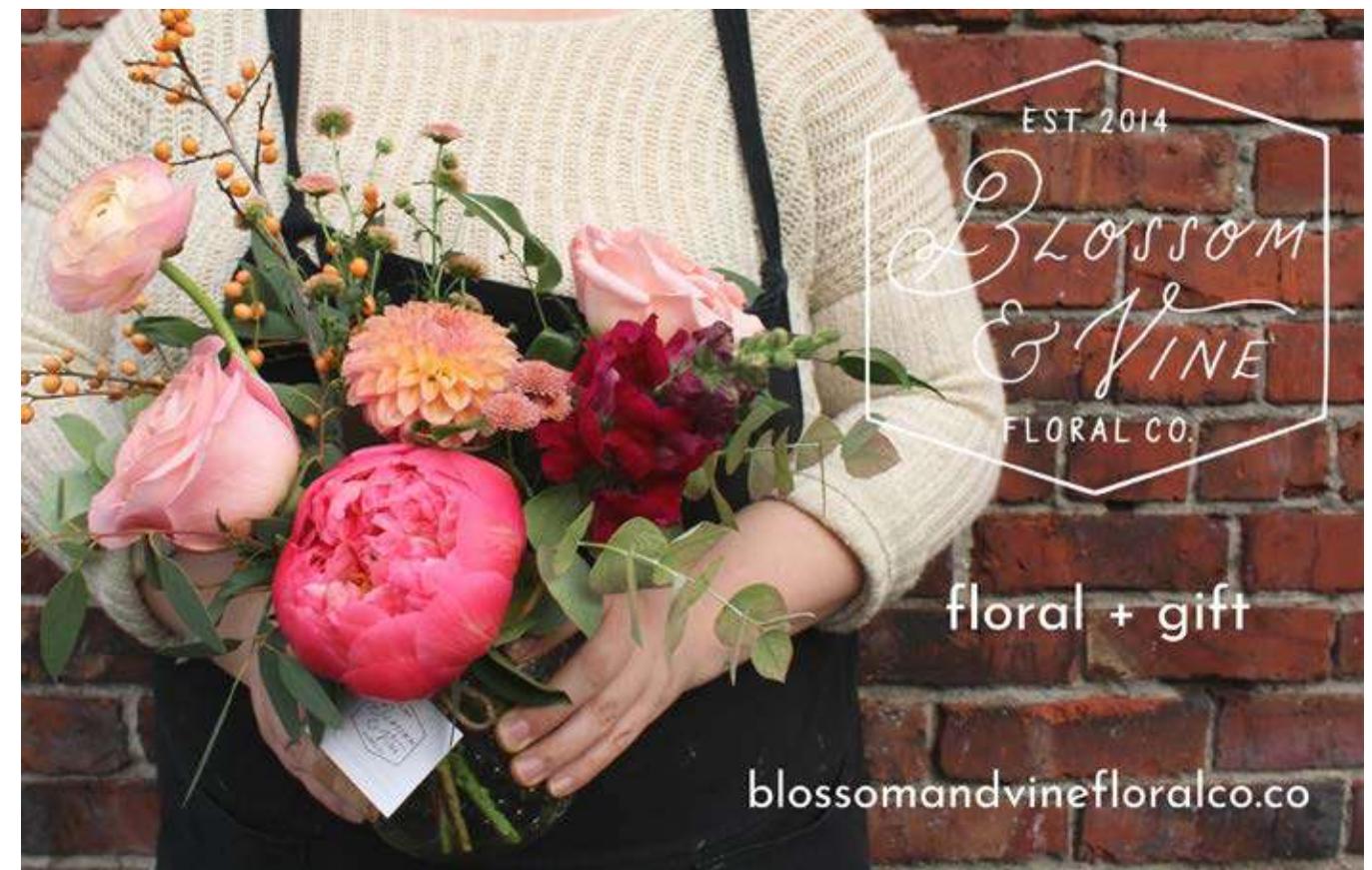
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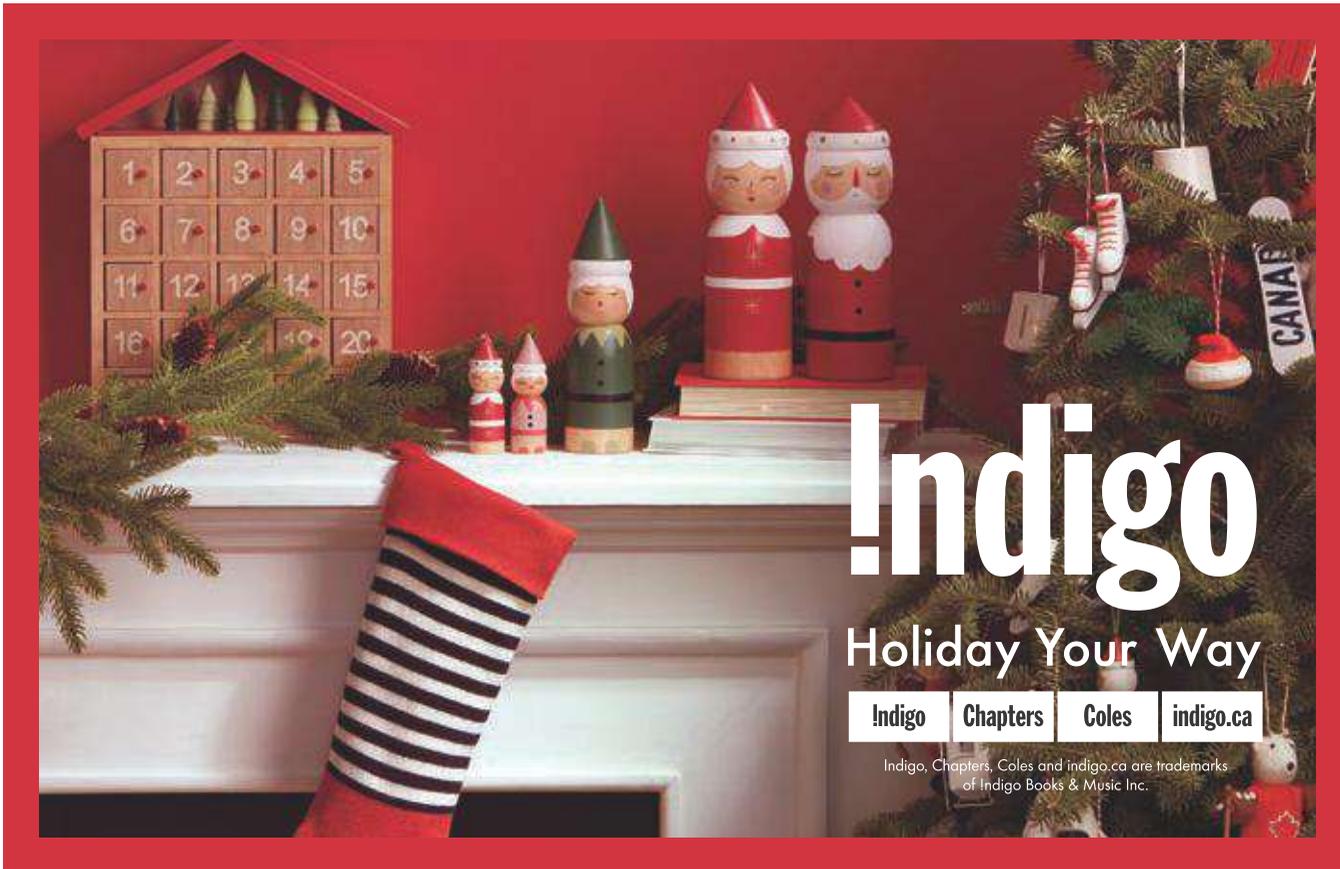
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A Parisian Holiday *in Coal Harbour*

Amidst the hustle and bustle of restaurants and parks in the marina-side neighbourhood of Coal Harbour lies a little West Coast Parisian gem. Located on an average city street, this downtown dwelling is anything but ordinary. As you enter the three-storey townhouse, you are immediately immersed into European ambiance with fine French hallmarks such as herring bone oak floors, intricate wood mouldings and formidable sixteen-foot high ceilings.

In “la petit cuisine”, the bold Mediterranean blue cabinetry is fabulously accented with crystal knobs and gold mesh inserts—the perfect entourage for the La Cornue range cooker. A mix of classic and contemporary décor is most notable with the ornate ten-foot-high Louis-Philippe mirror behind a modern whitewashed wooden chandelier. This contrasting aesthetic is carried on throughout the town home in the most pleasurable way and is never short of surprises.

Shunning conventional opulence, Christmas has been deliberately kept simple and natural with a touch of European bohemia to complement rather than compete with the already stunning decor. Beautiful pieces from **Indigo on Robson** accent the free-spirited and verdant floral design by **Thomas Hobbs Florist**, transporting you to a faraway Christmas pied-à-terre in Paris. Joyeux Noël, mes amis!



Decorated By:

Negar Reihani,
Space Harmony

Suppliers:

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- Thomas Hobbs Florist
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- Hunters Garden Centre
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Grandeur & Whimsy



Standing outside this Georgian-inspired home with its beautiful sloping black roofline, you know you are in for a treat. The two-storey, leaded glass diamond window is eye catching, allowing a glimpse into the grandeur of the home inside.

In the foyer, oversized wall sconces illuminate the lofty 12-foot ceiling while, underfoot, herringbone wood floors with marble inlay borders beckon you to take in the sparkling décor and exquisitely styled elements of this modern home.

Setting the scene in hues of purple and pink, the home is transformed into a chic gathering place during the holiday season. The entire main floor is adorned in tastefully appointed décor provided by **GardenWorks**. Fresh flowers and greenery from **Granville Island Florist** unify and complete the theme.

The living room hosts the formal tree with its mix of large baubles and

delicate ornaments creating a beautiful backdrop for gift-opening on Christmas morning.

Upstairs, the primary bedroom's floor-to-ceiling beveled mirrors add opulence to a paneled feature wall while the soft peach and grey palette keeps the space calm amidst the glamour. Next door, a little girl's room in shades of pink ensures a happy place where sweet dreams always come true.

Grandeur gives way to whimsy in the family room where a playful balloon tree sets the tone for the family to relax, laugh and enjoy each other's company.

Changing décor as the seasons change is a year-round passion for this family. At Christmas, their goal is to incorporate each family member's unique taste in a warm and loving environment. This is truly a home where everyone feels happy and welcome.



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Decorated By:

Asha Hayer,
Asha Michelle Design

Suppliers:

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A Charming Holiday *Welcome*

As you walk up to the little white house, you are first greeted with the fresh scent of cedar garland draping the playful pink door. The door swings open and friendly faces welcome you in to enjoy an annual tradition: the always inspiring Homes for the Holidays tour. Our hosts this year, beloved TV personality Todd Talbot and his gracious wife, Rebecca, invite viewers from far and wide to spend some time in their company discovering the best of the holiday season. Once here, you won't want to leave this cozy space filled with Christmas charm courtesy of Stephanie Jean Design. A large wreath hangs in the eating nook complete with decorative pillows that invite you to sit and stay a while.

The fragrance from a simply decorated gingerbread house fills the air - sweet and nostalgic. Land and sky motifs adorn ornaments provided by **Monika Hibbs Home** and soft, muted florals from **The Flower Factory** round out the holiday décor. Out back, in the converted garage, you will find a kids' hangout complete with its own décor and of course a Christmas tree, from **Hunters Garden Centre**, to ensure every space feels festive and welcoming. Attached to each gift under the tree are cookies by **Tweet Shoppe**. Will the children be tempted to nibble on them as they countdown to Christmas? Would you be able to resist?



Decorated By:

Stephanie Giesbrecht,
Stephanie Jean Design

Suppliers:

Monika Hibbs Home
The Flower Factory
Tweet Shoppe
Hunters Garden Centre



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Gingerbread Recipe



BY CHRISTINE BEYLEVELDT

*Run, run, as fast as you can,
You can't catch me,
I'm the Gingerbread man.*

For the Gingerbread:

- 4 cups of all purpose flour
- 6 teaspoons of baking powder
- 2 teaspoons of ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon of ground cloves
- 2 teaspoons of cocoa powder
- 2 cups of golden syrup
- 2 cups of brown sugar
- 1/2 cup of unsalted softened butter
- 1/2 cup of water
- 2 eggs

For the Icing:

- 3 3/4 cups of icing sugar
- 2 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract



The brothers Grimm inadvertently popularized this holiday treat when they published the fairytale Hansel and Gretel—the story of two children who stumbled upon a witch living in the woods in a house made from candy. While it serves as a cautionary tale, today's gingerbread houses, or Lebkuchen, are a tasty treat too good to resist and oodles of fun to prepare as a family.

1. In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, spices and cocoa powder.
2. Separately in a saucepan, melt the syrup, brown sugar and butter in the water until dissolved.
3. Beat the eggs into the lukewarm syrup mixture before adding the dry ingredients.
4. Knead the mixture into a dough, cover it with plastic wrap and leave it to stand for up to two days in a cool place.
5. When you are ready to make the gingerbread, preheat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius and draw and cut out the house patterns on a baking sheet. You will need two rectangles that are 3 by 5 inches for the sides of the house, two squares that are 3 by 3 inches and slant into a peak that is 5 1/2 inches from the base for the front and back of the house, and two rectangles that are 3 by 5 1/2 inches for the sloping roof panels. Save the rest for trees and gingerbread men.
6. Turn the dough out onto a floured surface and continue to knead it well as it will be soft. Roll it out into a thin sheet on baking paper that has been greased with cooking spray. Cut out the shapes using the templates and bake the pieces for 10-12 minutes until firm.
7. For the icing, mix the egg whites and vanilla into the icing sugar until runny and lump-free.
8. To make a piping bag, place a ziplock bag into a cup with one corner pointed down. Fold the edges of the bag down over the rim of the cup and pour the icing into the bag. Seal the bag and twist it so you have a comfortable bulge on which to rest your hand while piping. Make a small cut in the bottom corner, which you will pipe the icing through.
9. Decorate the individual pieces of the house while they are lying flat on the cooling rack and allow the icing to harden before assembling. Use excess icing on the edges of the shapes to get them to adhere together and add decorations.
10. While peppermint candies, gumdrops and candy canes are traditional, you can decorate any way you wish. Use candy-coated chocolates and liquorice for bright splashes of colour or rock candy and pretzel sticks for a realistic effect.

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The Origins of Holiday Decorating

In the cold months of winter when we're huddled indoors, we always manage to find a spark of light.

Holiday decorating is a tradition that goes back centuries and has always brought people together. The Ancient Egyptians were thought to have decorated their homes with palm rushes during the winter solstice because the greenery reminded them that the sun would grow stronger once again, but the practice of decorating trees as we know it came from Germany. Our favourite holiday pastime originally had families sitting around their hearths making decorations from dried out fruit and nuts, which they threaded as garlands through the branches of evergreens. Although we switched to tinsel and baubles long ago, the homey practice of making edible decorations has resurged.



You can bring a touch of nature to your home this year. Go outside and collect fallen branches and pinecones and paint them gold and silver to bring a bit of shine to the warmth of your home. Wreaths don't have to make statements, either. In fact, the first wreaths were the recycled trimmings from freshly clipped trees that people didn't want to discard. Rather, they spun the leftover branches into ornaments to hang on their doors. Opt for a minimalist approach and fashion your own with a circlet of copper wiring or a recycled embroidery hoop. Using florist tape, weave a few cedar or evergreen trimmings around the hoop, leaving most of it bare so the greenery stands out against the metallic tones. Cover up the tape using a ribbon. For a pop of colour, try adding holly, fake cranberries or slices of dried blood oranges. You can make your own by baking thinly cut slices on a low heat in the oven

for up to four hours to dry them out without burning them. Secure them to your wreath using florist wiring.

Ornaments don't have to go on a wreath or a tree, you can leave these shiny baubles grouped together on mantelpieces or in glass bowls on tabletops. Fairy lights have a magical aura. Place a strand of these tiny, twinkling lights inside glass jars with a cork stoppers in different sizes and group them together on any tabletop for the effect of fireflies in a bottle.

To make your source of light pop against your rustic colour palette, opt for cranberry red tapered candles. For centuries, people placed candles in their trees to bring light and warmth to their homes during the holiday season. In the 1880s, Thomas Edison created the first strand of electric lights but his partner Edward Johnson had the thought to colour them red and

green and weave them through the branches of his tree that season.

Finally, the festivities would not be complete without a beautifully decorated tablescape. Layer two tablecloths together and gather up one at the corners, creating a swag effect that shows off the contrasting layers. Tie two or three ornaments together with a ribbon or copper wiring to create a cluster and attach to each corner, tucking away the excess fabric, for a neat and elegant holiday table that brings your family together.



BY CHRISTINE BEYLEVELDT





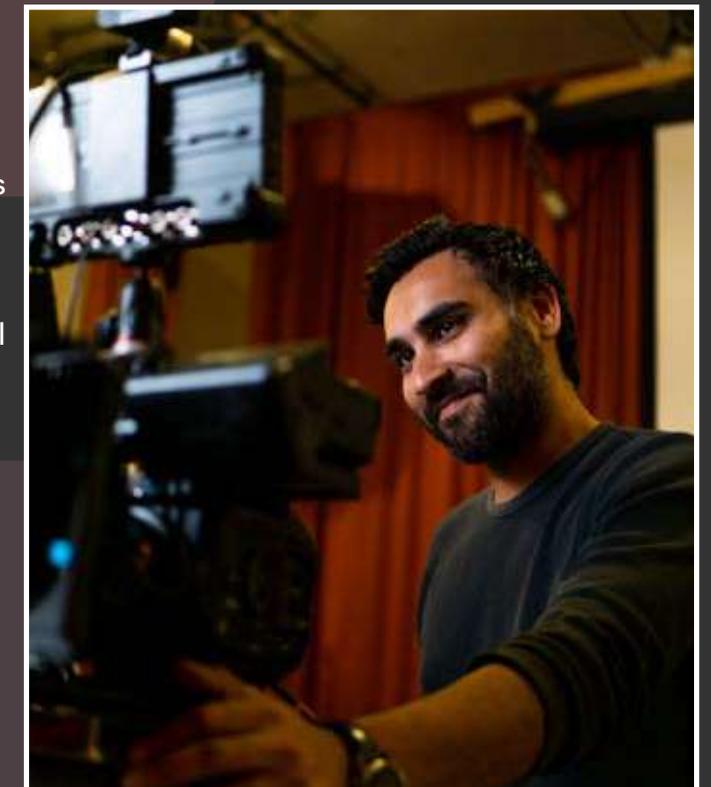
Believe in the power of stories.

When I was a kid, every night I would ask my mother to tell me a *kahani*, which means "story" in Punjabi.

Storytelling is one of the most important expressions of the human experience. A well told story can unite, mend, and strengthen communities in a way that nothing else can.

I want nothing more than to connect people through artful storytelling for the rest of my life.

- Inder Nirwan, Kahani Pictures Founder



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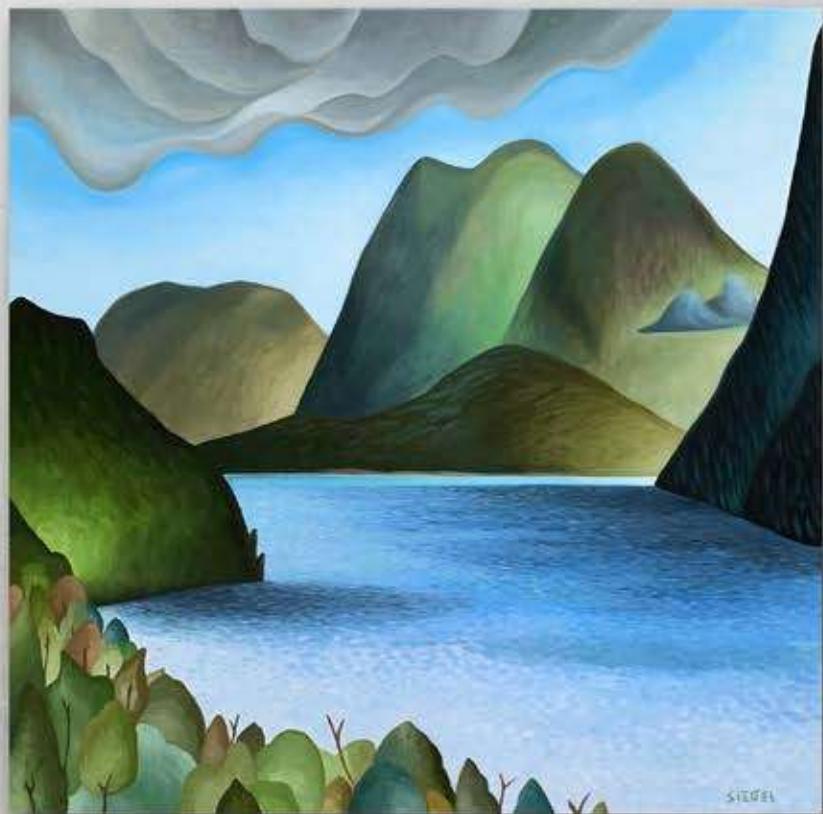
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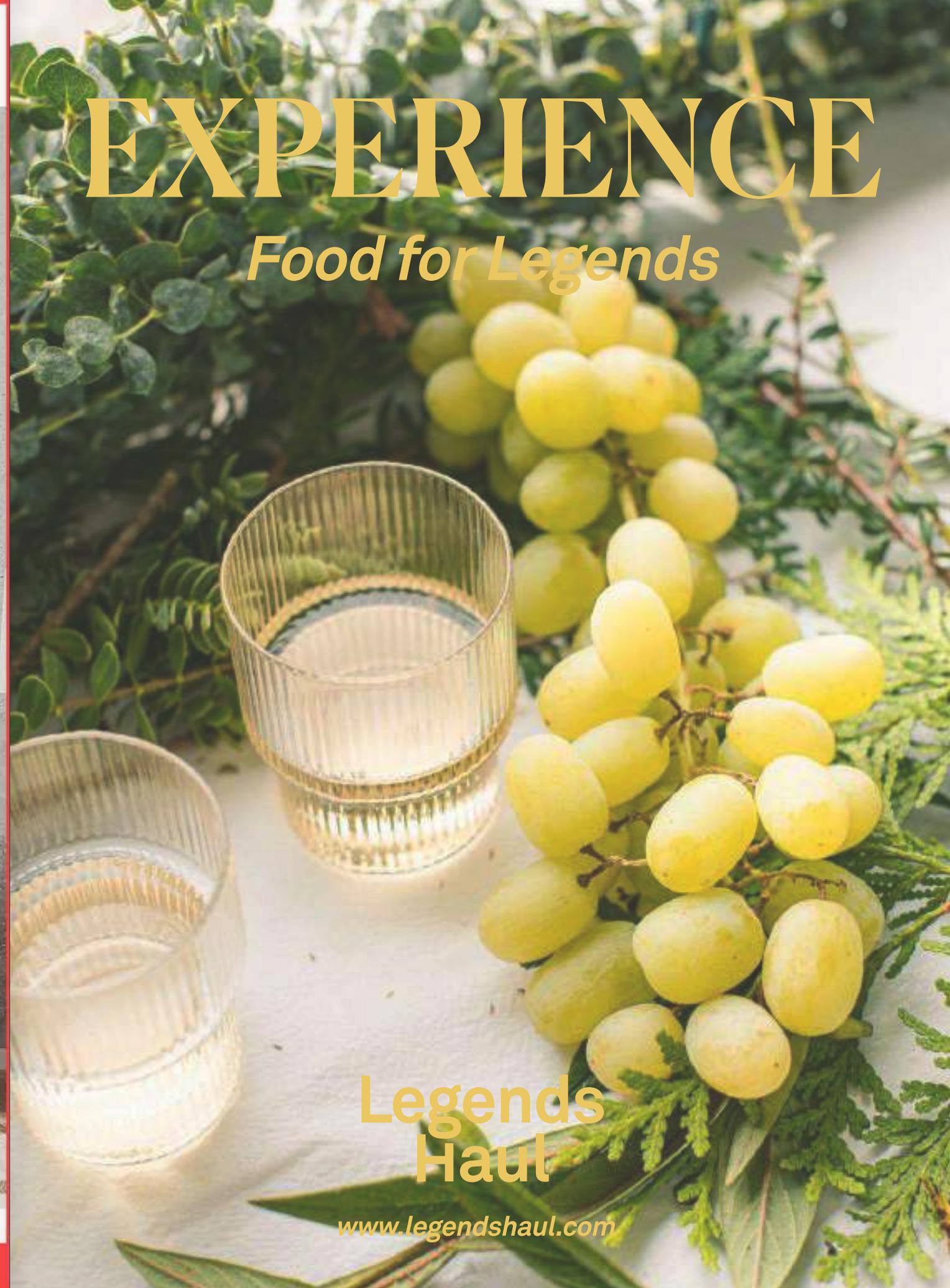
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