

# SPIRITED

*From white-jacketed waiters to a buffet table laden with porcelain and flowers, a holiday dinner at designer Alex Papachristidis's elegant New York apartment is all about puttin' on the ritz.*

In the dining room of Alex Papachristidis and Scott Nelson's Upper East Side apartment, waiters set out antique trays and terrines and Blue Canton porcelain by Mottahedeh. Vases brim with arrangements by Zezé, a noted florist who knows the couple's apartment colors well. The 19th-century chandelier is from John Rosselli Antiques, and the curtains are in a Lee Jofa silk.

*swank  
it up*

Interior Design **ALEX PACHRISTIDIS** Text **HILLARY BROWN** Photography **THOMAS LOOF** Producer **BENJAMIN REYNAERT**





**LEFT:** On the dining room table, the batik and ikat napkins are vintage, the parrot was purchased at a Paris flea market, and the 19th-century ceramic of a Chinese immortal is antique. **BELOW:** Papachristidis (right) and Nelson with their Yorkshire terrier, Teddy, an Instagram star (search #TeddyNewYorkie to see). **OPPOSITE:** In the living room, a William Yeoward Crystal glass is filled with rosé Champagne. The cocktail napkin is by Schweitzer Linens, the lamp is by Christopher Spitzmiller, and the curtains are in a Lee Jofa satin with a Samuel & Sons trim. Wallpaper, Gracie. **FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES**

# A

Alex Papachristidis confesses, “I’m old school, always have been.” The designer, a vivacious host and native New Yorker, has an affinity for entertaining with echoes of the formality and frivolity of times past. He does not disappoint at the dinner parties for 30 that he and his partner, Scott Nelson, host at their jaw-dropping Upper East Side apartment. “I’ll run into friends weeks later and they’ll say, ‘Oh my gosh, it was just heaven! I wish more people would entertain at home.’”

From the impressive yet warm ambience to the savory cuisine and skilled waitstaff, Papachristidis embraces all things extravagant and luxurious. “Everything should smell delicious, look

beautiful, and feel yummy,” he notes. “And dim the lighting—it shouldn’t feel like McDonald’s!”

The couple’s guests are immediately greeted with a generous pour of rosé Champagne in an oversize glass with a single giant ice cube—a personal touch that has become something of a party signature for the pair. After helping themselves to a buffet of warm curried chicken with coconut milk and rice (a beloved dish of Papachristidis’s), friends meander throughout the apartment. Some perch with plates on velvet-covered sofas in the library, while others lounge in Nelson’s dressing room—which the gentlemen heartily encourage with a plush daybed and tiny tables and chairs.

Make no mistake: It’s wonderfully posh. But Papachristidis never forgets the importance of levity. “We always play disco music in the background to put a smile on everyone’s face. I’ll never recover from Studio 54!” he says, laughing.



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*Because we spend so much of our lives eating out and on the run, there’s nothing nicer than inviting friends over for dinner.*