

MARTHA STEWART

Living

MAKE IT A
magical
HOLIDAY



DECEMBER 2011
\$4.99 USA (CAN \$5.99)
marthastewart.com

IPAD SUBSCRIPTIONS
ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Free access for
print subscribers



HOMEKEEPING

If one of your ornaments is missing a hook, use a length of floral wire to hang it. Wrap one end of the wire around the ornament's loop and the other end around a tree branch.

MUST SEE

'Tis the season for giant gingerbread houses. Don't miss these colossal holiday displays.



Last year's display at San Francisco's Fairmont hotel

SHOP FOR A CAUSE

When you buy gifts via **GOODSHOP.COM**, a portion of what you spend will go to the nonprofit organization of your choice.

IN SEASON



tangerines
southeastern
United States



Brussels sprouts
western
United States



kale
southwestern
United States

HOLIDAY HELPERS

GIVE RECEIPTS

When shopping for presents, ask for gift receipts at the register, and tape them to packages before wrapping.

BUY BATTERIES

If you're celebrating the holidays with young kids, make sure you have batteries on hand for any toys that call for them, plus a small screwdriver to remove the toys' battery covers.

AVOID THE RUSH

Remember to mail cards and out-of-town gifts by the second week of the month. To save time, you can print your own postage at home. Go to usps.com for details.



COOKING

make baking a breeze

To save time during the holiday rush, get a head start on baking by freezing slice-and-bake dough. With logs of premade dough in the freezer, you can have cookies ready to bake at a moment's notice. When freezing, wrap it in parchment paper, and label with the type of dough and any baking instructions for a quick reference. Experiment with different flavors and add-ins for a variety of cookies that will last you through the season.

**Le Parker Meridien
NEW YORK CITY**

The Midtown landmark joins forces with local bakers and pastry chefs and food trucks for a gingerbread-house competition to benefit City Harvest. 119 West 56th Street; December 1 to January 6.

**JW Marriott Desert
Ridge Resort & Spa
PHOENIX**

Visit the largest gingerbread village in Phoenix. This year's theme is Christmas in Who-ville. 5350 East Marriott Drive; November 28 to January 1.

**Sheraton Hotel
SEATTLE**

The city's top architecture firms team up with the hotel's culinary staff to design a Gingerbread Village you'll want to move in to. 1400 6th Avenue; November 22 to January 1.

The Fairmont

SAN FRANCISCO
The hotel's head chef and pastry chef will construct a giant house with 7,500 home-made gingerbread bricks. 950 Mason Street; November 26 to January 1.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JOHNNY MILLER, COURTESY OF THE FAIRMONT SAN FRANCISCO; RAYMOND HOM, iSTOCKPHOTO (3)