

Making the Most of Christmas 2020

The team at Kris Turnbull Studios offer eight top tips to ensure the global pandemic doesn't take the 'Merry' out of your Christmas this year!

So how do you plan ahead for Christmas? If there's one thing you can be sure about right now, it's that Christmas will look nothing like it has in the past. With a restriction on the number of friends and family you can see, a curfew on pubs, bars and restaurants, households facing financial pressure in these uncertain economic climate, social distancing and face coverings, all this doesn't mean that Christmas is cancelled! It just means you have to be a bit more creative about making it another joyful and meaningful memory for you and your loved ones. Here are 10 ways in which you can plan for Christmas in a way that still promises some fun and quality time which can't be shaken or stirred by the temperaments of the virus.

BE KIND

In the new normal of social distancing, this year it may even be kinder to elderly parents and relatives to stay away and reach out with a nice gesture instead. As well as baking some homemade treats and delivering them with a festive note, you could also organise a few virtual catch-ups instead.

VIRTUAL DINING

Don't let restrictions on mixing households dampen your social life – get together with a virtual dinner party. Pick a date and time that suits everyone and why not choose a country's cuisine to keep things exciting. Save the Michelin star dinner for post-lockdown and keep it simple otherwise you might be too worn out to party! Why not organise a quiz for after dinner, a food themed round might be fun to get the ball rolling!

KEEP IT LOCAL

When getting your festive ingredients and décor, support small local shops and pick up your groceries and fresh cut flowers from your own neighbourhood. Don't focus on dressing out the dining table only, surprise your partner or roommates with putting some lovely flowers on their bedside table too!



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SET THE SCENE

When it comes to setting the dining table make it extra special this year and use only candlelight to create a wonderful effect. Candlelight provides just enough light for you to focus on your food and each other, while dimming your focus on any other of your distracting surroundings. Illuminate your table with an arrangement of tall red candlesticks on crispy white table linen to create a welcoming dining room.

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

In the Victorian era, it would have been hard to find a table that wasn't topped

with a crocheted doily. Today, these handmade bits of lace (which for us look like delicate snowflakes) are more likely to be tucked away in linen closets or stacked high in antique shops. Why not give them a flurry of new life this Christmas by turning them into a country-chic table runner. Likewise, don't throw out the old or unusable Christmas baubles from previous years, reuse them within the table decoration, Christmas gift wrappings or turn them into festive napkin rings. Also choose for cosy cloth or linen napkins to create a thoughtful touch of style.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Create a three-dimensional gallery by hanging a mix of paper, metal and wooden stars in various sizes and designs hanging from the pendant above your dining table or along the top of a window frame.

A LITTLE EXTRA

Not all the presents need to be under the tree. Show off your prettiest wrapping paper on the dining table. Get small, inexpensive Christmas gifts to truly express your love and gratitude this year.

CHEERS!

The decorations are up, the table is set and dinner is cooking, the go-to move is to crack open a bottle of red wine to enjoy while waiting for the meal to cook. Instead, why not get creative and mix your own bespoke pre-dinner cocktails – Merry Christmas!