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An Invitation To The Garden: Seasonal Entertaining Outdoors



Synopsis

In this indispensable entertaining guide, Michael Devine, a well-known tastemaker, shows how the garden can be a perfect and easily transformable setting to stage enchanted events in every season. Michael Devine shares the joys of outdoor dining in his exquisite garden, presenting several get-togethers throughout the year—from breakfast and lunch to cocktails and dinner. Included are easy-to-prepare recipes as well as lots of ideas for creating festive tablescapes and decor that befit each occasion, from an iridescent butterfly-themed summer luncheon to a Christmas Eve feast in his cozy candlelit garden folly. Each garden event is chic and infused with whimsical effects. This small backyard garden has clipped bushes, trellised climbing roses, potted containers, and raised sprightly vegetable and herb beds, which serve as the source for many of the fresh ingredients for his mouthwatering menus. An array of sensuous blooms for the table is ready for the picking. A charming bagatelle with a thatched roof and a gravel terrace enveloped by the lush garden function as intimate seating areas for his chic parties. This book provides expert guidance and inspiration for readers looking to create their own stylish outdoor parties with ease, whether they are city dwellers with a small plot of land or the owners of country property.

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Customer Reviews

For all of us winter weary north eastern gardeners, and for anyone else who loves beautiful gardens, delicious food and sharing both with family and friends, Michael Devine's new book is a delightful treat! This book is the perfect dinner party "thank you" present (for a really good dinner party!) I love that it is organized by season with ideas for entertaining from Spring thru Fall with

recipes that lean heavily on what's in season in a home garden. It's filled with gorgeous photos of fabulous table settings and lots of useful tips and creative ideas. So much fun!

I love cooking and entertaining and this book is totally up my alley. I have to disagree with the earlier review because I found the food mouth wateringly photographed and the images of the garden are inspiring as well. The pacing of the meals and gardening tips are easy to follow and I will have this book shelved close at hand to enjoy over the course of the coming seasons. Looking forward to trying out the salmon and sorrel quiche for my Easter get together!

Received this book today on a hot Atlanta Afternoon. I am thoroughly enjoying its beautiful photographs of laid back and quietly elegant entertaining. The connect between good gardens and entertaining make it all plausible and easily doable. Recipes look intriguing, so on a cooler day into the kitchen.

This is a beautiful book. The photography is absolutely stunning. I am not too fond of the recipes, but the 'tablescapes' gave me all kinds of ideas. We are putting our outdoor furniture out and around the property, getting ready for the warmer season, and I plan to use some of the ideas in the book especially on my round patio dining table.

Michael Devine's Garden is a place of peace, beauty, creativity, charm, color, delicious food and, I am sure, wonderful guests. This book embodies the soul of a creative master. I enjoyed it from cover to cover and will do so many times as each viewing reveals something fresh and new. Thank you, Michael! nph1938

It was the same garden over and over and over again with views of the next door neighbor's house and on occasion a naked wood fence. I don't understand why some found this book so inspiring. In one section (I kid you not) there is nothing but a table with tealights in shot glasses and a few flowers strewn around what looked like acrylic pen/pencil holders. I have seen more exciting tablescapes at backyard barbecues or online for free. What a disappointment this was because I liked the concept of the book which was to pair great recipes with inspiring tableware and centerpieces. Although as I said most of it was quite bland, I did like the way he displayed the vegetable topiaries on the table in the autumn. Too bad the author didn't bother to share with his readers the way in which this could be achieved. Therefore this book just didn't live up to all of the

hype for me. I am glad I perused it at the book store instead of blindly ordering it.

I love table top decor and work at creative and interesting tables when we entertain. The cover of this book looks delightful but when you look at the tables carefully, I'm not sure I would haul my china outside to a patio and have my guests sit on small uncomfortable Parisian style bistro chairs for a nice dinner. Also the menus and recipes are a little off the wall such as a "Rose Pink Breakfast" with rose petals on the scrambled eggs? Some of the over the top recipes (requiring a LOT of preparation) deserve a dining room with comfortable chairs and corresponding ambiance. I love the idea of a beautiful luncheon in the garden, but IMHO the food should be appropriate to that setting.

This book is wonderful. It is full of creative artistry and delicious recipes. If you love to entertain then this book is for you. Your guests will be delighted both visually and with their taste buds. Whether you entertain inside or out there are loads of ideas for you. It is beautifully put together and easy to follow. You and your guests will surely enjoy.

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