

HOME

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101
IDEAS

for a handcrafted, do-it-yourself
season of sharing and giving.
It's the holidays, made simple.

Events

62 To improve the flavor of mass-produced wine, half-inch-thick pieces of white oak are added to stainless steel vats of reds and whites as part of the fermentation process. Marina del Rey furniture maker Cliff Spencer takes that discarded wood and transforms it into pieces such as his Malachete table (\$2,250). The gorgeous striping of the tabletop is a sign that the various pieces of wood were steeped in everything from Pinot Noir to Pinot Grigio. www.cliffspencer.net.

Crafting
in your
cubicle
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Prepping
the house
for guests
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PERSONAL: Times staff writer Jeannine Stein, author of a new book on crafts made with recycled materials, created this gift wrap by stitching photos to a grocery bag. Page E3

The '101 ideas' start with these tips

Guests naughty on nog, regifting, bowing out. Luminaries offer advice.

DAVID A. KEEPS AND
ALEXANDRIA ARRAMIAN MOTT

Been invited to a holiday party that you'd really prefer to skip? Dying to regift Aunt Mita's potpourri of questionable origin? We surveyed creative minds for answers to holiday conundrums. You may not agree with the advice, but at least it's free. To launch our 101 suggestions for holiday cheer, we

start with that perennial question:

How do you handle the party guest who's had too much eggnog?

1 Ed Begley Jr., actor and environmentalist: I married her.

2 Mary Sue Milliken, chef and restaurateur: Have more eggnog myself.

3 Brian Williams, a.k.a. the Elegant Thrifter (www.thefragranttrifter.com) and author of "The Find": It's always a good idea when serving a specialty cocktail that is highly flavored to have a nonalcoholic version on hand, not only out of consideration for those

who are not drinking, but also for those who've had a bit too much.

Once they reach the point of no return, you switch them to the nonalcoholic version, which they're highly unlikely to realize is low octane.

Should guests get over-sloshed, do not — I repeat, do not — allow them to pass out in your bed! We once had a couple come for New Year's Eve bombed out of their minds. They passed out on top of the coats in our bedroom, requiring departing guests to dig for their wraps under the snoring boosters.

4 Ann Magnuson, actress and performance artist: Introduce them to your AA guests.

5 Hutton Wilkinson, president of Tony Duquette Inc.: I have had "guests" of friends who have gotten falling-down drunk, and it makes me furious.

First, you tell the butler to stop giving them drinks. If they came in their own car, then I drive them home and have my friend follow and take me back to my house.

One woman was so drunk, when the valet brought up her car she said it wasn't her car. Then when I was driving her home, she didn't know where she lived. We eventually got to her house to discover that the decorative iron gate to the front door was padlocked, and she [See Conundrums, Page E3]



MAN OF THE HOUSE

Chris Erskine's column will return Dec. 13.

HOT PROPERTY

Lauren Heiser's latest reports are at latimes.com/hotproperty. Her print column will return Dec. 13.