



**stylemaker issue!**

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# Days of Wine & Olives

Napa Valley's Carneros Inn epitomizes the low-key elegance of wine country. You're invited to bring its style home.

BY OMA BLAISE FORD | PHOTOS JAMES CARRIÈRE  
STYLING LEIGH NOE

## style wise

**WHO**  
Bradley Mudd

**WHERE**  
Napa, California

**DAY JOB**  
Manager at The Carneros Inn

**STYLE MEANS**  
Incorporating "you" into everything you do

**FAVORITE SOURCE**  
The local nursery or garden center

**EVERY GATHERING SHOULD HAVE**  
Handwritten invitations

**BEST WAY TO SPEND \$50**  
Candles, candles, candles—real bang for your buck that create mood and drama, and transform any space

**BEST WAY TO SPEND \$100**  
Good wineglasses

"For centerpieces, I prefer live plants over floral arrangements," says Bradley Mudd, the man behind the inn's beautiful events. He used olive trees here, but you can use whatever is available at the garden center. Try potted rosemary, for example.

Where do high-style event designers go for new ideas? For Bradley Mudd, it's the outdoors: "Nature is my greatest source of inspiration," he says. For a recent gathering, the region's many olive trees set the theme. Various size saplings in galvanized buckets share the center of the table with flowers gathered in tumblers, bowls of olives, and lanterns accented with wine corks. "A table feels special when you cluster things to give it all a sense of lushness," Bradley says.



Each place setting, left, includes a mini tree take-home gift; a chalkboard plant stake becomes a place card. "It's important to have a personalized place card," Bradley says. "It draws people in and makes sure the table isn't just something to look at." A pliable fresh olive twig makes a simple napkin ring. *Blackboard Garden Labels, set of 10 for \$14; shopterrain.com*

Bradley plays up the wine country theme with corks used to decorate candleholders, above. Tumblers made from recycled wine bottles serve as flower vases and water glasses. *Footed glass hurricanes (similar to shown); westelm.com. BottleHood tumblers, \$19-\$24 for a set of 2; heathceramics.com*



The welcome station, *left*, allows guests to pour themselves a glass of wine when they arrive. Bradley fills inexpensive shadowbox frames with wine corks and uses them as trays. *Ribba frames; ikea.com*

The metal rings on humble key tags, *above*, echo the galvanized pots on the table and other accents throughout the resort. A tiny rubber stamp and green waxed twine dress up the tags for use as glass markers.

Blank birch veneer postcards, *below*, are the starting point for invitations customized with rubber stamps. *DIY birch postcards, \$2.50 each; nightowlpapergoods.com* ■

For buying information see page 246.

“Have fun and don’t be afraid to experiment with new things. For my birthday, on a whim I covered the entire table with moss. To this day, our friends still talk about it.”

Bradley Mudd

