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# The Vintage Table: Personal Treasures And Standout Settings



## Synopsis

Your table is not only the place where you gather for meals—it is also a canvas for your creativity and for the treasures you’ve gathered over the years. Each day offers you a chance to surround yourself with what you love, whether you’re enjoying cereal from a punchy yellow gnome bowl, inviting friends over to test your latest recipe served on cherry red retro plates, or holding a formal dinner using delicate family china. By loosely mixing modern accents you’ve bought on a whim with vintage elements earned by combing flea markets, you can create tabletops and arrangements that look timeless and classic even as they speak to your mood. Much of the fun comes from knowing you’re using pieces that have personal meaning, and *The Vintage Table* offers all the guidance you need to discover gems among family heirlooms, textiles, and antiques store offerings. Whether you’re making napkins by repurposing old aprons or collecting stylish pastry boxes from your favorite bakery to be used as a signature centerpiece for your dining room, the pieces themselves become your décor, and they will bring you the same pleasure as a beloved painting that still surprises you every time you look at it. From creating a party that plays on nostalgia, such as a fairy theme for children or a Mother’s Day celebration at which guests dress in aprons that recall Betty Crocker, to a more opulent affair starring all your finest objects, the possibilities in these pages show how setting the scene can be a festive and imaginative process. This beautifully photographed book will inspire you to make sitting at your table a frequent pleasure and to enjoy what you have “every day.”

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The people at Romantic Homes have certainly done it again. This is another beautiful book! My only complaint would be that it is a compilation of past magazine articles/pictures rather than entirely new material. But, overall it delivers.

This is an absolutely lovely book, gorgeous photographs, elegant and well designed tablesettings. It is sort of a guidebook on how to create your own style and settings in a diary/scrapbook. As a huge fan of "Romantic Homes" magazine, I was really looking forward to seeing this. The only disappointment is that there is no identification of the different brands of vintage china, silver and crystal used, especially important to me as a collector. That is what I was hoping to find out more about in the book. Glad the library got it for me instead of me paying for it, just for that reason. If you are looking for a style how to book, this is the one for you. If you are looking for information on vintage collectibles, its not.

Great photography but lay out is very similar to Vintage Vavoom with some duplication of photos. Expected to see more emphasis on vintage china.

This book has such gorgeous photographs! Although I lead a much simpler lifestyle than the one pictured in the book, I found it to be inspiring. The settings are beautiful, and the book gives me great ideas on what to look for the next time I go to an antique store. Not only that, but the book has given me great ideas on how to display what I already have. Ideas for creating vignettes and displays are on every page, and those ideas help me create my own displays. Also what's nice is how the book shows me color combinations that I would not have come up with on my own. I have found the book to be beautiful to look at, inspiring to ponder, and full of good ideas on how to make the most of my existing vintage articles.

I have several other table setting books. Unlike other reviewers, I didn't care that specific identifying info about items in the pictures weren't given. The point is to inspire each of us to collect and use things we find or already own that create unique beauty, delight on our tables, not to attempt to replicate the pictures. There was too much repetitious prose for me, but for a younger person with less experience and confidence, this was probably reassuring and liberating.

THE VINTAGE TABLE: PERSONAL TREASURES AND STANDOUT SETTINGS offers insights into

table settings and mixing and matching vintage and modern pieces to fine effect. Unlike most antiques guides to glassware, this doesn't assume only antiques or an unlimited budget: it shows how to make the most of a few fine pieces and comes packed with color photo examples for pairing family china and newer finds. A top pick for any general lending library.

I'm a little surprised at the high reviews for this book when most of the reviewers ended up writing more criticism than praise. I enjoyed looking at the photos in this book but I had seen them all before in Romantic Homes Magazine and they were mostly extreme close-ups. The close-ups are artistic but without full table photos to show the overall effect it's hard to really get the idea. The explanations alongside the photos is simplistic instead of informative. The text is what I really didn't care for. Everything said could have been said in about half the words. Ms. deMontravel seems to feel that her opinion is the only one. While telling readers to "find their style" the text is full of words such as "you should" and "it's a must" and "it is essential." This arrogant style is, quite frankly, one of the reasons I no longer subscribe to Romantic Homes. So, if you want to learn how to use vintage items in unique ways, stick to Rachel Ashwell. If you don't like the pastel Shabby Chic pallet just rely on Rachel's more gentle encouragement to find the vintage items you love and incorporate them in individual ways.

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