

Holidays At Home

Indulge Your Holiday Guests In Five-Star Luxury At Home

by *Chris Madden*

(NAPSA)—With my busy travel life traveling as founder of my own design company, there is nothing more satisfying to me than bringing home the luxury and opulence I have found in my stays at some of the finest hotels. Particularly during the holidays, I try to recreate my most memorable experiences—from the sumptuous décor to the attentive service, from the plush bath towels to the exquisite bedding. When guests come to visit our family for the holidays, I want to treat them to the same indulgences found in the most glamorous five-star hotels.

Every year we have my husband Kevin's mother come stay with us and we've created a guest room that truly replicates the ambiance of my favorite hotel suites. During the busy holiday season, make your guest room appealing to all five senses (sight, sound, smell, touch and taste), and you'll be creating a room that is pleasurable as well as memorable.

Touch: The bed is the focal point of your guest's bedroom; make it comfortable and inviting with the finest linens you can afford. My new CM Hotel Bedding Collection at JCPenney, inspired by the finest hotels around the world, consists of a 12-piece bedding ensemble with exquisite embroidery and detail, 600-thread-count sheets, a down comforter and decorative pillows, all enclosed in an elegant fabric-covered box which your guests can use for storage. Add homey touches such as plush throws and cozy blankets for chilly winter nights. A plentiful stack of thick towels, spa robes and headwraps are a must.

Scent: Whether you light a scented candle, such as my signature Cinnamon Spirit Candle at JCPenney, apply aromatherapy oils or add a sensual container of bath



salts to your guest room, the delightful scents will help your guests feel pampered and indulged.

Taste: For me, a teapot, along with an assortment of teas, bottled flavored waters and late-night snacks make it convenient for your guests to take care of themselves without sneaking out to the kitchen. Place them on a tray along with some antique linens and you're all set.

Sound: Turn on the music. I like to make sure that my guests have some great holiday tunes to listen to. Leave a programmed iPod or stack of CDs with a player by the bed so many of us like to listen to music before going to sleep.

Sight: Use your old treasures and photographs to make it personal for your guests. Frame photographs of past holidays shared with them. Put a stack of their favorite reading materials in their room. Display your favorite treasures and show how you enjoy using them. Surprise your guests with flowers in an unexpected spot—in the bathroom or on the bedside table. Or, a simple potted orchid will add a special touch, and last for weeks.

By personalizing your guest room and making it appealing to all five senses, you will capture the real spirit of the holidays and make your guests truly feel at home.

For more information, go to www.jcpenney.com.