

# NILOU MOTAMED

## HOSTING TIPS

### 1. Pull out all the stops

I don't know if you're like me, but I watch *Downton Abbey* for the dinner scenes. I love any opportunity to pull out my vintage silver serving pieces and antique etched-glass coupes. In the past I've wasted precious prep time handwashing and drying glassware—but now I don't have to scramble. My LG QuadWash™ with TrueSteam® is gentle on delicate glassware but miraculously tough on spots. Best time-saver ever!

### 2. Set the mood

I can't stress the importance of lighting and music enough. Get your candles out early, and keep spares on hand if the night's on a roll. Nothing's more flattering and festive than a cluster of twinkly votives. Same goes for the playlist, which for us veers from Blossom Dearie to Chet Baker, and Oumou Sangare to Caetano Veloso. (Brazil will never steer you wrong.)

### 3. Go big, stay home

For us, New Year's is all about dressing up and treating ourselves to some of our favorite bites at home. Nothing against a roast beef, but we'd rather snack our way through the evening. A big indulgent tin of caviar paired with crème fraiche and crispy potato chips is a must. Oysters, too: we love briny ones from Maine (like Mookie Blues, Dodge Coves, and Bombazines). And no fête would be complete without creamy, buttery sea urchin toasts. A magnum of my favorite Frederic Savart grower champagne gets things flowing beautifully.

### 4. Use your network

Home cooks have never had so much access to so many great artisanal products—whether from your neighborhood bakery or shipped from across the country. Entertaining is more than just showing off your cooking skills, it's about flexing your connections. I love supporting small businesses and know I'll always get exceptional Imperial Kaluga from the ladies at Cavi-air; perfectly aged Epoisses from Murray's Cheese; and killer natural wines from Brooklyn's June.

<https://www.cavi-air.com>

<https://www.murrayscheese.com>

<https://www.junebk.com>



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### 5. Take a stand

I've been collecting vintage cake stands for way too many years. I love them not just for desserts, but to create depth and dimension on our table, whether we're hosting Sunday brunch or a New Year's bacchanal. Best of all, with the adjustable second rack of our LG QuadWash™ dishwasher, even oversized crystal cake stands fit perfectly.

### 6. Our favorite party favor

Years ago, we printed up a tongue-in-cheek menu for a holiday gathering in the style of an old-school French restaurant. They were hilariously OTT, and a huge hit with our friends, who—from then on—always expect it. Menus are easy to design and print at home, they help to keep track of what you're cooking and serving as you go, and, not least, they make great mementos. We have a whole drawerful of wine-spattered menus from parties past that we love to look back on.

### 7. Clean up can wait

When we moved into our apartment, we tore out the wall between our kitchen and dining room—we love the feeling of everyone hanging at our island while we cook. But nobody wants to hear the whirring of a dishwasher. Thankfully our LG QuadWash™ dishwasher is whisper-quiet, and it also lets you delay the start time—so you can go to bed knowing all the dishes will be done by morning.