



The Great Christy Yarn

#christyloves

“DREAMS ARE STRANGELY FAMILIAR PLACES...”

By Natalie Ellen Cobb, founder and director, [Private Dining London](#).

Transport your dining table to the dreamy world of The Nutcracker story this festive season by using warm reds, wintery foliage and golden injections of colour. Begin by laying your table in the classic fashion and warming the table with some candles. Then, use our top tips to achieve “The Nutcracker Look” with any table in your home or dining space this Christmas.



Foliage Centrepieces

Transfer the botanical foliage trend of 2016 to the festive season by using sprigs of dark-wood fern and stems of cotton to recreate the enchanting pine forest of Alexander Dumas’ story. Layer the foliage throughout the middle length of your table, intertwining the different branches and finish by arranging the stems of cotton on top. If you can get your hands on cotton they can be simple in bringing a dreamy softness to the foliage but if you struggle to find any, white flowers or berries will also be effective. One thing to note is to be careful not to use anything with too much perfume as this will overpower the smells of food.

Warming Décor

For the traditional Christmas touch choose some small wooden Nutcracker figurines for your table and place red charger plates underneath each placing. Gather a collection of nuts and scatter throughout the foliage as well as at the base of your candles and figurines. Due to size and colour we find that large Walnuts and Chestnuts are the most effective. Feature a large red glass acorn decoration on each plate before the food arrives.



Gold Touches

Decorate a number of the nuts with gold leaf, gold paint or pen to add a touch of glamour to your table and place some of them under small glass cloches to create charming focal points for your diners. Crystal bowls work well as alternatives to cloches. To finish, personalise your table with handcrafted stationery featuring elegantly gold calligraphy and your favourite lines



#DreamChristy

If you #DreamChristy and take our steps to create “The Nutcracker Look” you can achieve a truly special first impression when guests sit down to your magical Christmas feast this festive season.



Natalie Ellen Cobb at **Private Dining London** & Anna Wallis at **Rose, Paper, Scissors**

Photoshoot collaboration by Private Dining London <http://www.privatedininglondon.co.uk>, Rose, Paper, Scissors <http://www.rosepaperscissors.com> & the private dining room at Bird of Smithfield <http://www.birdofsmithfield.com>.