

Eat, drink and be merry



1. For a contemporary look-opaque and clear glass fuse well. Table and four leather chairs only £599.
2. Tie in the colour of your dining chairs to suit your kitchen. Real leather chairs from £85.
3. Hedge your bets. Extending dining tables are a must for those needing flexibility. Complete set of table and six leather chairs (EX Showhouse) @ £995.
4. Thick leather extra comfort dining chairs in chocolate from £125 each.
5. This oak and leather trimmed dining table has a coffee table and all occasional pieces to match - perfect for a co-ordinated lounge/dining room setting.
6. Faux suede classic skirted chairs are available in oyster and brown @ £125 each.
7. Slatted open-back wood chairs let light through and keep an airy feel to rich dark wood.
8. Plain fabric seats on dining chairs are easy to recover. Get creative and recover them to suit your accent colours or fabrics.
9. Spectacular 'feature chairs' beef up a room and make a statement. Even an ordinary table can be transformed with feature chairs.

One of the great pleasures in life is sitting round a beautiful dining table anticipating a mouth-watering meal simmering in the kitchen. For most of us, the dining table has become the real hub of our home, a place to relax and unwind with a glass of wine and a delicious dinner after a hard day at work. Of course, there are still a few people who need a map and compass to find their dining area but during the Festive period even hard-boiled couch potatoes can be persuaded to polish off the cutlery and invite friends round.

With so much focus on food and cooking coupled with our love of stylish interiors, a really fantastic dining room suite is a great investment.

The headache is finding something that not only fits in with our practical, day to day needs but somehow looks perfectly at home with that gorgeous dresser we bought at an antique store. And, of course, it needs to be able to accommodate 12 friends when we decide to throw a Christmas dinner party. If you can tick most your boxes you are doing well!

The good news for anyone bamboozled by the sheer range of dining furniture and styles out there, is that help is at hand in the shape of Loraine Chassels and

her husband and business partner, Carlo Sambucci. Loraine and Carlo have styled some of the most upmarket homes (and show homes) across the country. Their highly successful company - XS Interiors and EX Showhouse Furniture has a vast range of beautiful furniture at their Bearsden design studio and all the design help on hand you'll need to make it work. More interesting is the fact that they also sell pre-hired furniture previously used to style properties for sale and Show homes. This means that not only are their pre-hired items 'as new' but also that they are immediately available and at very favourable prices. Fabulous dining collections are available for delivery before Christmas, so get cracking.

Loraine says that anyone thinking of buying dining furniture should first think about where it will sit. "A lot of new build properties, for example, now come with dining kitchens. In a smaller style property you might want to consider glass, which keeps everything open and airy," she says. For those of us who prefer wood, then choosing a table that echoes the kitchen cabinets looks great while platinum metal accents on dining tables and chairs can complement appliances.

Again, open plan living can mean

a dining area is integral to the lounge. In these instances, Loraine advises against mixing and matching styles, unless the room is large whereby a more eclectic look can be considered. For example, the main picture above shows just how beautiful the cherry wood and glass dining table and chairs sit alongside their co-ordinating coffee and lamp tables, within this sumptuous living area. When it comes to chairs, Loraine and Carlo have numerous styles to choose from. High back bonded leather dining chairs look fantastic with contemporary glass dining tables and are really practical in kitchen environments. "And soft-skirted chairs can really dress up a table," she adds.

A good rule of thumb is to choose furniture so comfortable and stylish that you want to linger at the dining table for hours. Because, given how long Christmas turkeys take to cook and carve, you might just have to.



Carlo Sambucci and Loraine Chassels XS Interiors and EX Showhouse Furniture

FURNITURE HIRE AVAILABLE TO THE TRADE

EX Showhouse Furniture and XS Interiors Call 0141 942 0519 to book an appointment

Visit our website now - www.exshowhousefurniture.com www.xsinteriors.com

Loraine Chassels and Carlo Sambucci