

# ART OF DINING

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HOLIDAY CHEER





品味 創意

Tastemaker

The ever stylish and gorgeous Bonnie Gokson, the creative force behind SEVVA, shares fond memories of the holiday season and offers her best tips for ringing in the festive spirit.

SEVVA這所全港最觸目餐廳的創作大師，Bonnie Gokson每次出場總是一貫地風雅迷人。這次我們有幸分享到她最難忘的幾段佳節回憶，亦從她身上學到不少為節日打點的秘技。

Bonnie Gokson, the style maven behind Hong Kong's most dramatic restaurant, SEVVA, is devoted to perfection, and it shows. From the perfectly muted shade of sand of SEVVA's sofas to the creation of luscious, bijoux cakes – enough to make a modern day Marie Antoinette swoon – Gokson's modus operandi has always been about pitch-perfect presentation. Not surprisingly, her career background in fashion and lifestyle only served as a platform for her pursuit of perfection.

So a conversation with Ms Gokson regarding her thoughts on how to enjoy the most divine holiday of the year, Christmas, is enlightening in multiple ways. For Ms Gokson, Christmas has always been an important holiday for her family. "A big tradition at home would be making Christmas pudding way ahead for the many guests and relatives who would be coming home for the season of celebration," she says. The huge, fresh pine Christmas tree in our front foyer would be all decorated, with lots of presents surrounding it. The whole household of maids would be fussing in the kitchens for the many dinner parties we used to have. We would go for midnight mass all dressed up... then open up presents! It's a lovely memory."

A self-confessed tradition lover, Christmas today means "loved ones and good friends gathering around for a homecooked festive meal, chitchatting by cosy fireplaces with burning logs, sipping eggnog and Armagnac with lovely Christmas music adding to the warmth of the night." Among her most memorable Christmas meals were enjoying lobster salad and Champagne on the beach and roasting marshmallows and chestnuts in logwood fireplaces.

Of course, since the opening of SEVVA more than two years ago, the lush Hong Kong skyline viewed from the restaurant's incredible terrace is, for many, the most stylish place to celebrate the holidays. Thinking fondly about her first Christmas at SEVVA, Ms Gokson lights up. "Christmas at SEVVA is beautiful with cyber-optic trees glowing in our sweeping panoramic terrace at night and there is great festive music to set the mood. We have traditional

eggnogs and great hot cocktails, wonderful high teas with housemade brandy snaps and cream... and Christmas a cappella carolling! It's very warm, traditional with a twist and simply beautiful." For the New Year, things liven up several notches. "It's so much fun at SEVVA as it is intimate and cosy, with great entertainment, beautiful people, great food, lots to drink and a view of the countdown fireworks!" For those who want to give away a little SEVVA spirit, Ms Gokson suggests picking up one of their luxurious hampers, with a gold and silver-themed mixture of items for the home and unusual collectibles. "I am into the abundance mood this year for presents. Abundance for good positive energy and luck to befall us, abundance in gifts," she muses.

Possessing beauty, success and friends, Ms Gokson has it all, so it's no surprise that her Christmas wish list goes beyond materialistic desires. "My Christmas wish list? To be strong and positive in mind and body. Smooth sailing throughout the year with my business, home and personal growth."

Sounds like a plan to us.

從 SEVVA由外至內對風格的注重，不難看出 Bonnie Gokson 是位完美主義者。梳化選用了柔和的沙灘色調，創作的各款小蛋糕精緻如珠寶，連瑪麗皇后見了都會眉開眼笑。這就是所謂的「Gokson 工作方式」——任何事都是一場精彩無瑕的表演。如此說來，她過往所踏足的時裝界和品味圈，都是這名完美主義者的表演舞台而已。

聽著 Ms Gokson 細說如何享受這每年最神聖的節日，可以得到許多啟發。我們不但學會時尚地慶祝傳統節日，更可窺探這名品味專家的生活。事實上，聖誕節在 Ms Gokson 的家庭裡一直飾演著重要的角色。「我家有個傳統，就是一早做好大量聖誕布丁預備招待絡繹不絕的客人。我們又會以新鮮的大松樹做聖誕樹，放在前園處，從頭到腳佈置得美輪美奐，再把許多禮物堆在旁邊。那些日子，整屋家僕

都在廚房忙作一團，因為我們會舉辦很多次晚餐派對。最後，我們會換上漂亮的衣服參加子夜彌撒……然後就是拆禮物啊！真是令人懷念……」

節慶期間，在那可愛的山頂家園，Ms Gokson 會擔任稱職的女主人。對於酷愛傳統者如她，現代聖誕節意味著「與愛人和好友聚首一堂，享用佳節大餐，然後舒適地在火爐邊聊天，啖著蛋酒和 Armagnac 白蘭地，讓動聽的聖誕音樂把這夜的溫暖包圍起來。」在歷年聖誕大餐之中，最難忘的是在沙灘上吃龍蝦沙律和喝香檳，也試過在火爐的柴火上烤棉花糖和栗子呢！

SEVVA 於兩年多前開業，從餐廳的平台可眺望到香港繁華的天際，對很多人來說，那正是時尚地慶祝節日的最佳地點。Ms Gokson 回想起於 SEVVA 渡過的第一個聖誕節，頓時心花怒放：「SEVVA 的聖誕是很美的！在晚上，整排光纖聖誕樹在我們遼闊的全景平台亮起，加上精選的聖誕音樂，傳統蛋酒，熱雞尾酒，還有精彩的 High Tea，自家製白蘭地小點配忌廉……還有聖詩班的 a cappella 合唱呢！那是個傳統得來又富新意的慶祝地點。」說到新年，也有好些難忘片段：「在 SEVVA 感覺既親密又舒服，有多姿多采的娛樂表演，又有漂亮的人、好食物、喝不完的酒，我們還可在那兒看倒數煙花呢！」假如你想將 SEVVA 的獨特風格打包送禮，Ms Gokson 建議你選擇他們最豪華的禮物籃——它備有金、銀兩色主題，裡面放滿各式禮品，包括家居精品和一些別緻的收藏品。「對於今年聖誕，我期待著很多很多的正能量，很多很多的幸運，還想得到很多很多的禮物！」她邊想邊說。

Ms Gokson 擁有美貌、事業、朋友，無怪乎她的聖誕願望並不止於物質欲望：「我的聖誕願望嗎？但願我能保持身心強健、思想正面，無論業務、家庭還是個人成長，整年都順順利利。」

與其說是願望，不如說是計劃吧！