

MARTHA STEWART Living

the flavors of fall

HEARTY MEALS

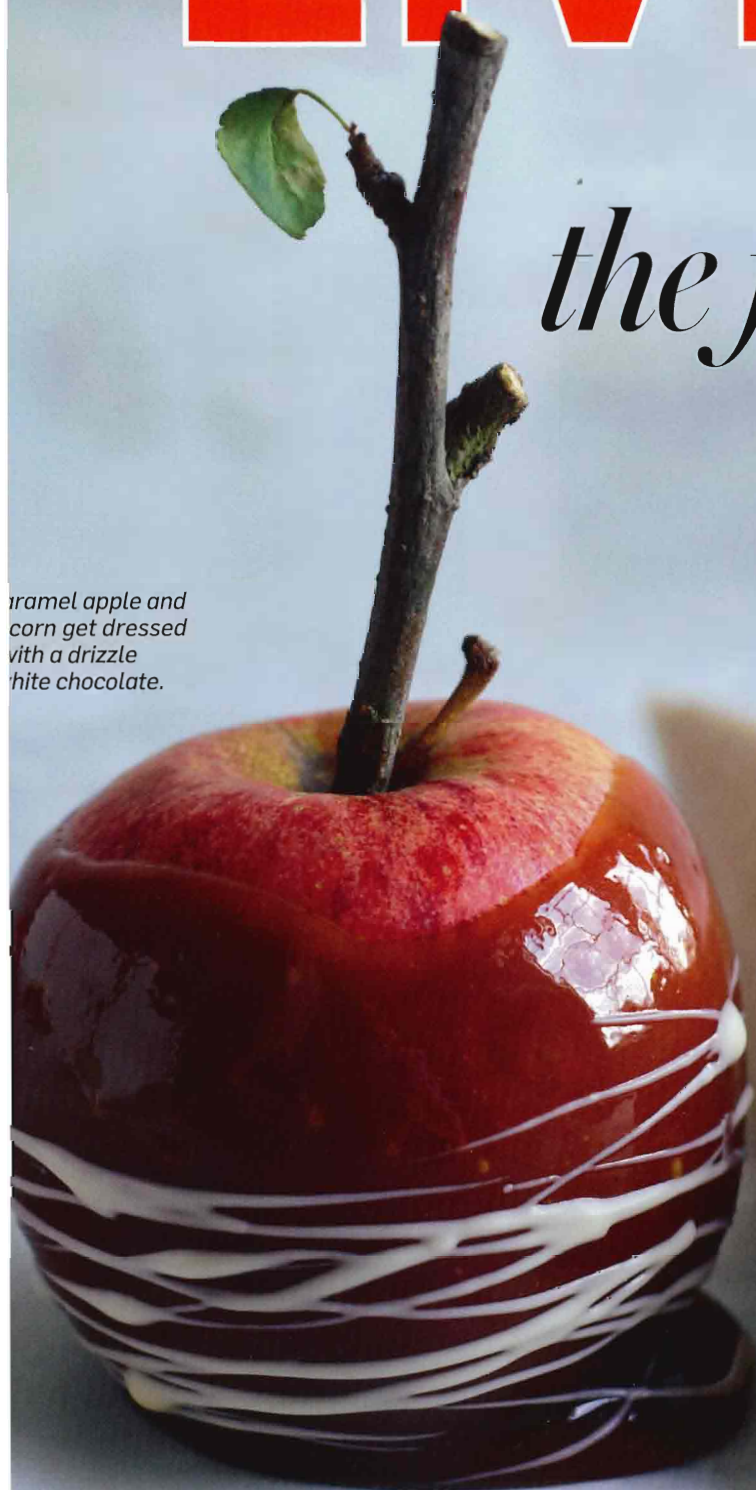
one-pot chicken, homemade
pasta, pulled-pork sliders

HALLOWEEN PLAYBOOK

DIY fun house, makeup tricks,
pumpkin carving

PLUS jeans for (almost)
any occasion

aramel apple and
corn get dressed
with a drizzle
white chocolate.



LIFE and WISDOM

FROM MARTHA

a party for Jude

Sophisticated decorations and a whimsical theme make for a festive lunch for my GRANDDAUGHTER'S FIRST BIRTHDAY.

CREATURE TABLEAUX

The cake table was set up as a focal point. The three cakes were decorated with hand-made marzipan animal figures—which aren't too hard to make if you have the patience (see page 28).





FUN AND GAMES

Jean-Georges Vongerichten and I loved the stuffed-animal theme, and we each found a favorite—a bear for me and a mouse for Jean-Georges.

ANIMALS ON PARADE

We pushed all the "tables for two" together and created one long luncheon table. With the modern lamps overhead and clear balloons and cutout animals, the party was beautifully framed and remained contained in that area.

Bubble balloons, in Clear and White (page 21), 15", jrballon.com. **Divine twine**, in Oyster, \$15 for 240 yd., whiskergraphics.com.

Kingdom Animalia laser-cut animals, in Natural Maple, \$60 each, enormouschampion.com. **Stuffed animals**, steiffusa.com.



UP-CLOSE LOOK

Steiff animals found their way onto paper place mats and square pine blocks embellished with printed critters and the names of our guests. Personalized menus were placed atop crisp white cotton napkins. Everything you need to re-create these table decorations is available at marthastewart.com/judes-birthday.



HAVING FINALLY BEEN GIFTED with a grandchild (actually, now two), it was my great pleasure recently to host baby Jude's first birthday. Because she is growing up in New York City, and because her mother was very busy preparing for a second baby, Truman (who was born two days before Jude's birthday), we planned Jude's party close to home at the very pretty and modern eatery Perry St, owned by my friend chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten. The guest list comprised all the adults who had had something to do with baby Jude in her first year. For example, Hosanna Houser, who had helped me create the extraordinary Arctic wall hanging for Jude's bedroom; "Uncle" Kevin Sharkey, who is perhaps Jude's best friend; Jayne Hinds Bidaut, Jude's first photographer; and Marcie McGoldrick, who worked on the Jude storybooks with me ("Once Upon a Time," December 2011), were all in attendance, happy to take part in the festivities. The only other child was Olivier, Jean-Georges's grandchild and son of Cedric Vongerichten, the talented chef de cuisine of Perry St restaurant.

Alexis, Jude, and Truman live near this restaurant, and the simple, elegant architecture and décor made it so easy to decorate for a child's party planned primarily for adults. We picked a theme—animals—and most everything was created around the idea with Steiff stuffed toys, wooden cutouts, printed images, and sculpted marzipan.

When I asked Jean-Georges if we could host such a lunch, he was all smiles and good will, loving the idea of a baby's first birthday in such a sophisticated space. Because the event was a lunch for grown-ups, we kept the celebratory aspects minimal but whimsical. Both clear and white balloons were inflated with helium, and they added a very festive but unobtrusive touch to the dining table and the dessert table. The back of the long banquette provided us with a ledge for wooden cutout animals of all sorts, which we painted white for uniformity. Dozens of stuffed Steiff animals were arranged

down the center of the table, some perched on blocks. The place mats were heavy white paper printed with photos of the stuffed toys, and we crafted a menu card with an image of Jude on the cover.

Jude arrived in her birthday dress: a beige silky skirt and a gray jersey tank top. Malvina Guretsky (magtricot.com), a friend and a fabulous knitwear designer, created a "candy coat" for Jude out of soft cashmere hand-dyed in pastel colors. Alexis wore beige satin, and mother and daughter beamed as they entered the restaurant and saw the decorations for the first time. Jude and Olivier sat in high chairs at the end of the long table, happily munching on the delicious fare prepared by Jean-Georges and Cedric.

Off to the side, on one of the large round banquette tables, we set up the dessert buffet: three special birthday cakes displayed under glass domes, boxed animal sugar cookies by Sweet Dani B (sweetdanib.com), and more Steiff animals peering here and there. More balloons festooned that table, swaying overhead in a charming fashion.

It was a workday for all of us, and we had to be sensitive to the babies' schedules, so lunch was not a drawn-out affair. But it was so sweet and delicious and delightful that we will all remember it most assuredly. And because we photographed it, Jude will always have a visual memento of what occurred on that first birthday.

And now the big question: What will next year's party be? Keep in mind, Truman will be 1, two days before Jude will be 2!



PICTURE-PERFECT

A radiant Alexis and an elusive Jude getting ready to enjoy a delicious meal prepared with such care by Jean-Georges and Cedric.

LUNCH MENU

butternut squash soup
with Mimolette cheese and
pumpkin seeds

*asparagus with mesclun,
enoki mushrooms, avocado, and
black-truffle vinaigrette*

ricotta ravioli with herbs and
tomato sauce

pain de seigle

birthday cakes



ENJOY THE MOMENT

Above "Uncle" Kevin and I had a very good time at the luncheon table. All we could think of was "What will we do next year?"
 Right Each slice of brown-sugar layer cake was accompanied by a marzipan animal.



CRITTER CONFECTIONS

Dani Fiori of Sweet Dani B baked and decorated the menagerie of animal sugar cookies, sticking to the color scheme (yes, there was one) and cleverly replicating the charm of the Steiff animals. The cookies served as party favors.

