



# It's Yule, Y'all

Why stand on ceremony when there's so much fun to be had? An artful, outdoorsy gathering at Jingle Bell Farm reveals the playful side of Savannah's "Posh" sisterhood.

*Photography by Izzy Hudgins*



## Brought to You By...



**EVENT DESIGNERS AND STYLISTS:** Tara Skinner and Ashley Greene, co-owners, with Adrienne Lino and Ashley Christopher, Posh Petals and Pearls

**LOCATION:** Jingle Bell Farm

**FLOWERS:** Garden on the Square

**CATERER:** Cape Creations Catering

**PAINTING:** Kay Garletts

**PLATES:** Downtown Dishes

**GIFT-WRAPPING:** Emily McCarthy

**RENTAL COMPANY:** Beachview Event Rental and Design

**WOMEN'S CLOTHING:** BleuBelle Boutique and Kathi Rich

**MEN'S CLOTHING:** Brooks Brothers and Express

**WARDROBE STYLIST:** Cartee Image Consultants

**GUESTS:** Kevin Cartee and Beth Scoggin



Posh Petals and Pearls is a name often associated with wedding design in the Hostess City, but now owners Tara Skinner and Ashley Greene are launching Posh Petit, a planning and design service for birthdays, holidays, anniversaries and bar mitzvahs. So when we asked them to help us plan an elegant, relevant Savannah Christmas, we got a taste of things to come.

"We wanted to incorporate the different aspects of Savannah life: the rustic with the elegant; the coast with the hunt," Tara explains. "To make it modern with a traditional twist, we went with black and white, accented with festive gold."

Inspired by the outdoors, Tara and Ashley chose the exterior kitchen and hearth at Jingle Bell Farm, an event venue and working farm in nearby Brooklet. They pulled Lucite chairs up to a rustic farm table and began to decorate with natural accents.

"We loved antlers for an outdoorsy motif but our husbands wouldn't part with any of their hunt trophies, so we had to order them online," Tara chuckles. "To make them upscale and give them pop, we painted them white, then dipped them in gold. Then we brought in some hints of red and evergreen."





**SENSE OF PLACE:** Oyster shells, their interiors painted gold and hand-lettered, served as posh place cards—complemented by clustered tree ornaments, coastal candle holders—even a miniature oyster Christmas tree.

**SLEEK MAGNOLIAS:** Anyone can have boughs of holly. For a little local color, Julie Driscoll of Garden on the Square sculpted magnolia branches into contemporary, square wreaths with shimmery touches.

**INSTANT GLITZ:** To upgrade inexpensive utensils, the “Posh” team dipped the stems of basic wine glasses and the handles of fundamental flatware in gold paint, giving them a festive facelift at a fraction of the cost.

**THAT’S A WRAP:** To make placemats, Tara simply cut and laminated wrapping paper. In turn, she packaged the gifts in plain, black parchment, which stationery designer Emily McCarthy then illustrated with Savannah scenes in gold pen.

**FOCAL POINT:** The team tied it all together with a bold, thematic painting by Kay Garletts, the owner of Jingle Bell Farm. “She whipped it up in 15 minutes for her annual holiday skeet shoot last year,” Tara recalls. “I caught her right before she painted over it for this year’s shoot.”

**A FRESH FEAST:** Cynthia Creighton-Jones of Cape Creations Catering offered her fresh take on Hostess City Christmas dinner, pairing roasted Greek pork loin and orange-and-rosemary-brined turkey with oyster casserole and a hearty grain salad of black rice, quinoa, cranberries and squash.



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“Silhouettes are super-popular right now, and we started throwing out ideas for something ‘so Savannah’ for this shoot,” Tara recalls. “We said, ‘Why not do plates with Savannah landmarks?’ Emily did the hand-painting and lettering, and she pointed out that visitors, locals and brides alike would all want these plates.”

The plates are now available for order at the duo’s new “DowntownDishes” shop at Etsy.com.

