



IS FOR JENNI KAYNE

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SPARKLING BLACKBERRY SHRUB, PAGE 53.

IS FOR DRINK ME



IS FOR PLAYTIME

Memory Makers

Easy, breezy entertaining for a lazy afternoon by the lake, starring old-school crafts and a sleepaway-camp spirit.

BY CHANTAL LAMERS • PHOTOGRAPHS BY THOMAS J. STORY



FAMILY TRAVEL TIPS, PAGE 55.

IS FOR LAKE TAHOE



IS FOR CRAFTS

PROP STYLING: ROD HIPKIND

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enni Kayne is no stranger to backyard camping. As a child, she and her sisters would ditch the family's vacation home on the edge of Lake Tahoe for an impromptu sleepover outdoors. "Even when I was really little, camping out on the beach for the night felt fun," says Kayne, a Los Angeles home and fashion designer with a serenely aspirational lifestyle blog, Rip & Tan (jennikayne.com). "We would bring our sleeping bags and pillows and bed down under the stars."

Part of what made those adventures so irresistible was the way in which they complemented their more urban existence in Santa Monica. "We looked forward to spending our Lake Tahoe vacations immersed in nature," Kayne recalls—so much so that, decades later, she and her sisters bought the vacation home their parents had owned for more than 22 years. Her reason for the purchase? To give her own kids—9-year-old Tanner, 7-year-old Ripley, and 5-month-old Trooper—the chance to "do the same things I did as a little girl," she says. "It's like reliving my childhood."

Admittedly, hard-core roughing it hasn't been a priority. "For some reason, we always find a place to stay that has bathrooms," she says, laughing. But the concept of a summer-camp spin on outdoor entertaining has universal appeal. For this casual afternoon get-together at the lakeside backyard of her youthful campouts, Kayne asked Oakland fiber artist Meghan Shimek to lead a lighthearted session in modern crafting. The rest of the elements came together in a loose and playful fashion. This is one party where low-key is the order of the day.



A PEACH-HUED CANVAS TENT SETS THE MOOD AND THE PARTY'S PALETTE.

BASE CAMP

Gatherings like this start with a tent. Whether a boutique design—like the Dusk Meriwether Lite Tent from Shelter Co. (\$695; shelter-co.com)—or a grouping of A-frames, they serve as lounge-like destinations for guests to congregate around.

Chic vintage military cot, \$249; throwbed, \$375; elsiegreen.com. The Breaker canvas rocker by Pacific Joinery, \$1,195; Tulip tree stump by Arbor Upcycle, from \$175; Wilo pillow by Whole France, \$122; atomicgardenoakland.com. Teak camp stool (similar), \$228; serenaandlily.com.

SCAVENGER HUNT

Kids are natural gatherers, so keep baskets on hand and make a game out of their thirst for adventure. Prepare a visual handout of fallen items, from pinecones and leaves to sticks and lichen.

Pinera basket by Ara Collective, \$76; atomicgardenoakland.com.



DIY TRAIL MIX: SUNSET.COM/SMORETRAILMIX.

T IS FOR TABLETOP

RUSTIC CENTERPIECE

A fennel-dyed raw-silk table runner and contrasting copper-leather tray form the foundation for a tableau inspired by nature.

Shown here: Table runner, from \$80; jalamadyes.com. Faceted ceramic bowl by Colin Waters, \$38; atomicgardenoakland.com. From page 48: Protected teak dining table and bench, \$1,498 and \$498; shopterrains.com. Cosette bistro chairs, rental from \$11; foundrentals.com. Terra-cotta planters, from \$14; flowerlandshop.com. Moroccan basket tray, \$79; elsiegreen.com.

DESIGN DETAILS

DON'T DISCOUNT THE OUTDOOR GEAR STORED IN YOUR GARAGE—USE CAST-IRON POTS AND ENAMELWARE AS TABLE ACCENTS.





ALL-AGES FUN: WOOD PUZZLES AND CLASSIC BOARD GAMES.

MIX IT YOURSELF

Handing guests a cocktail as they arrive is a sweet way to welcome them. From there, encourage everyone to help themselves to the bar. Kayne leaves printed copies of the drink recipe next to a table with ingredients and glasses. “That way,” she says, “you don’t spend the entire party playing bartender.”



SPARKLING BLACKBERRY SHRUB

Inspired by a version at Gjelina restaurant in Venice, California, this tart, fizzy sip is the perfect complement to a warm day. The syrup base keeps for up to a month, so you can prepare it far in advance and then top it with sparkling water at the start of a party. Kayne uses blackberries, but raspberries or peaches work too. Get the recipe for her refreshing drink at sunset.com/sparklingshrub. Roli Poli glasses by Bitters Co., \$42 and \$14 each; atomicgardenoakland.com.

WILD FLORALS

Stylist Rod Hipkind kept things simple and spontaneous by grouping bright peach ranunculus, unruly stems of feverfew, bunches of yarrow, and Echinacea in tumblers.

Top: Padma rug, rental from \$132; foundrentals.com. Wooden forest animal puzzle, \$36; petitcollage.com. Right: Cassandra Orion quilt, from \$475; theperishtrust.com.



PUT AN OLD CLOTHESLINE TO WORK BY HANGING STATEMENT QUILTS THAT EVOKE A CAMP CRAFT VIBE.



COLORFUL ROVING DOUBLES AS DECOR

▼
GET CRAFTY

"I always have an activity planned when kids are around," says Kayne. "It's enjoyable for them and for us." This elevated version of a god's eye (which is traditionally made at childhood summer camps from yarn, glue, and twigs or popsicle sticks) requires only simple materials: craft skewers and varying shades of roving (i.e., unspun) yarn. It's ideal for ages 12 and up, says Oakland fiber artist Meghan Shimek (meghanshimek.com). For Shimek's step-by-step god's eye tutorial, watch the video at sunset.com/godseye.

Roving, from \$17/lb.; paradisefibers.com.

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JENNI KAYNE'S TAHOE

The mom of three shares her favorite family outings around the iconic lake.



KAYNE AND RIPLEY GO FOR A PADDLE AFTER THE PARTY.

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PLAYLIST

KAYNE'S PARTY MUSIC STRATEGY? FOLLOW SPOTIFY PLAYLISTS CURATED BY HER FAVORITE RESTAURANTS, SUCH AS L.A.'S JON & VINNY'S.

THE FREE BIRD

Housed in a sweetly weathered shack along Lake Tahoe Boulevard, this java joint is beloved for its homemade chai. Kayne never has to look at the menu—her order of choice is the vanilla-infused Yerba Maté Chai. Or slurp up the signature Free Bird smoothie—its healthy-yet-delicious ingredients range from goji berry and açai juice to hemp protein and mesquite. freebirdtahoe.com.

MOODY'S BISTRO, BAR & BEATS

Kayne and her husband love the atmospheric supper club in The Truckee Hotel. Live jazz Thursday through Saturday, house-made pastas, and classic cocktails round out the appeal. moodysbistro.com.

SHAKESPEARE ROCK

A Kayne summer tradition: hiking this geological feature above U.S. 50 near Glenbrook, Nevada. The main attraction? A climb-worthy bluff of mostly volcanic stone with a profile that's reputed to resemble the Elizabethan playwright.

VERDE MEXICAN ROTISSERIE

The diamond-shaped, charcoal-colored counter sets the tone at this modern Mexican restaurant, where the free-range rotisserie chicken is served with chimichurri and sides like organic sautéed greens. verdemexicanrotisserie.com. ▲