

# Victoria

SPECIAL  
KEEPSAKE  
ISSUE

ROMANTIC LIVING / INSPIRING WOMEN

## *The Magic of Christmas*

**217 GLORIOUS IDEAS**

Enchanting Trees  
Heirloom Ornaments  
Sparkling Parties  
Unique Wrappings  
& A Host of Angels

**GIFTS FROM  
THE HEART**

Our Beautiful  
Bûche de Noël  
(This One's Easy!)

DECEMBER 2002  
USA \$3.95/CANADA \$4.95  
FOREIGN \$4.95







42



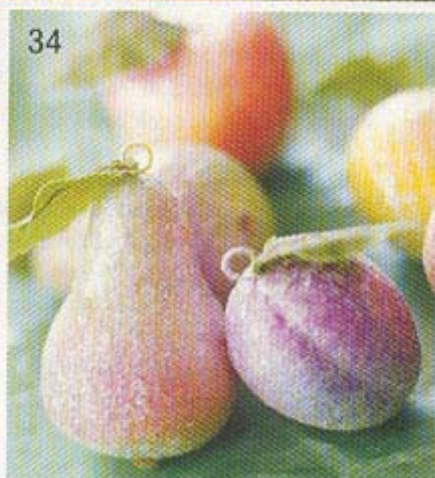
14



48



54



34

## departments

- 9 **belles lettres**
- 10 **that's victoria**
- 12 **beauty & bliss**  
Lovely ways to keep you looking—and feeling—your best.
- 14 **favorite finds**  
Gifts that even Santa will envy.
- 24 **touring**  
Adorning doors is a holiday tradition in evergreen Savannah.
- 34 **entrepreneurs**  
Ornament-making keeps Blümchen busy year-round.
- 38 **on our bookshelf**  
Enticing ideas for the bibliophile.
- 42 **delights**  
Exquisitely fashioned angels that are heavenly, to say the least.
- 44 **good works**  
When you buy one of these, you help improve the world.
- 46 **memoir**  
One Christmas, this writer got a touching lesson in reality.
- 48 **into the garden**  
Everything from pinecones to pods can be magical decorations.
- 50 **calling cards**
- 52 **shops we love**  
The goodies in this general store are anything but ordinary.
- 54 **design corner**  
Make a mantel the festive focal point of any room.
- 57 **editor's letter**
- 100 **recipes**
- 104 **resources**
- 105 **coming next month**
- 108 **the craftsman's hand**  
To make her glass pieces, Diane Casteja lets nature take its course.
- 110 **delights**  
With the help of some lovely little objects, your garden can look even prettier in the snow.
- 112 **victoria visits**  
The women of the Auréole trio make beautiful music together.
- 113 **entrepreneur 2002**  
The winner of *Victoria's* contest, announced in our August issue.
- 114 **'tis the season**  
Sarah Ban Breathnach lives in a cottage that was once a chapel—Isaac Newton's no less.
- 116 **collecting**  
All these ornaments are new, but with vintage charm built in.

**on our cover** This is just one of two dozen prettily decked trees you'll find in our beautiful Christmas issue. To see more of our seashell and starfish inspirations, turn to page 64. Photographed by Susie Cushner. Produced by Mary Baltz.





## christmas spirits

To her friends and family in Southport, Connecticut, Dianne Bernhard's angels are as important to the season as the tinsel on the tree. *photographed by*

JEFF McNAMARA *produced and written by* TOVAH MARTIN



**W**HEN ARTIST DIANNE BERNHARD SET OUT TO find the perfect angel for a holiday tableau four years ago, she had no idea she was about to launch a tradition. "I couldn't find an angel I liked," she says, "so I asked my friend costume designer Barry Doss to help me design one. Before I knew it, I'd gotten artists from various other fields involved, and one angel became a choir."

Inspired by Renaissance paintings and an exquisite assortment of vintage fabrics, beads and Austrian crystals, Dianne and her friends set to work sculpting glowing faces, stitching fabrics, draping ribbons, gluing crystals, applying glitter. Though the angels had been created for pleasure, they were so spectacular Dianne's friends and family urged her to show them off—which she did at a private exhibition in her studio. Now she and her colleagues design a new group of angels every year (usually six or eight) sending them on tour so others can enjoy their dazzling beauty. This year they may be viewed at two galleries in Connecticut, as well as the National Arts Club in New York City.

*For additional information, see page 104.*





1. This angel's gown was created from a vintage handbag.  
2. Artist Carol Marti made this patriotic angel in remembrance of September 11. Each year, Dianne and her team come up with a different theme.  
3., 4. and 5. Costume designers make sure the angels are suitably accessorized, from Austrian crystal halos to gold braid trim.  
6. and 7. Here, the angel "Gabriella" brings her message to a waiting Madonna.