



## TIPS FOR CREATING SIMPLE EASTER DECOR

CONTRIBUTOR: MARKETING | HOLIDAY JOHNSON

*Original article from [www.homewithholliday.com](http://www.homewithholliday.com)*

New blooms, fresh colors and **brighter, warmer** days are all reasons to celebrate!

If you enjoy hosting large dinner parties for Easter, here are some decor ideas to enhance your experience.



Spring fever has set in here even as the snow continues to fall. Having just used all of the soft and colorful fresh flowers for my Valentine's Day decor, it definitely got me in the mood for all things spring and Easter.

I know it might seem crazy to be decorating so early, but I only started with this first project to get things going. This is a long process!! We spend a lot of time in our kitchen so I couldn't resist starting there. Table settings and other decor will be happening over the next couple of weeks. We host a large Easter Dinner party every year and this year will be no exception.

For this vignette, I wanted to keep things neutral and fresh looking considering all of the white in my kitchen. This design would also be great for a buffet, a console or even a centerpiece for a table setting.

For the base, I started with one of my favorite wood serving trays that I bought at West Elm a couple of years ago. Using this on my white counters provides nice contrast. If your counters are darker, you could use a lighter tray or serving platter. My island is 16 feet long, so this large tray does the trick. However, it would be so easy to size this look down if the area you are wanting to decorate is smaller.

For this design, I decided to use a cake plate and dome so I had a wider, flat surface to hold the moss as a starting point. The goal was to make it feel like the bunnies were hanging out in the garden.

Featuring the preserved moss helps create a fresh, natural look for the vignette, plus it won't die or go bad. This decor will be sitting on my counter through Easter, so I

don't want to have to keep changing out greenery or fresh flowers. I have had the white ceramic bunnies for years and they were a perfect starting point since they tie in so well with my white cabinets and counter tops. If you have a more vintage or country look in your home, you could use whatever style bunnies that you have. Depending on the size of your tray or the amount of bunnies you have to use, you could also use any number of bunnies to create this look.

Once I decided on the tray, the vessel for the centerpiece and the bunnies, I jaunted off to Hobby Lobby for the moss, the eggs and other fun finds. I flipped over the moss eggs! Using different textures, colors and sizes of eggs is part of what adds character to the design. Hobby Lobby also has a great selection of faux potted spring florals and greenery which is precisely what I was searching for. These potted white lilies of the valley were perfect! I also loved the tiny potted greenery to add softness...only \$4.99 each! Aren't they the cutest?!

In the cake dome, I placed the moss first and then the flowers. All that was left to do was to randomly plop in the eggs. Super cute! Next, I placed the bunnies and added in the rest of the green accessories. Votive holders (candles are always a must!) were next and finally the rest of the eggs. Easy peasy!

The nice thing about this design is that you can easily incorporate your own colors and style and make it your own. Be creative and get your spring party on!



# Recipe of the Month: Loaded Mediterranean Chicken-Quinoa

**CONTRIBUTOR:** JONATHAN "JJ" JEROTZ  
*Original recipe from [www.eatingwell.com](http://www.eatingwell.com)*

## INGREDIENTS:

3/4 cup shredded chicken breast	1 cup roasted root vegetables	1 tbsp feta cheese
1/2 cup cooked quinoa	1-2 tbsp vinaigrette	1 tbsp sunflower seeds
	1/4 avocado	spinach

## PREPARATION:

PREP TIME

5

MINS

COOK TIME

5

MINS

1

Combine chicken, quinoa and roasted vegetables in a bowl; drizzle with vinaigrette. Top with avocado, feta and sunflower seeds.

TIP

\*To make ahead: Assemble recipe, cover and refrigerate for up to 1 day.

# Drink of the Month: Bee's Knees Cocktail

CONTRIBUTOR: STEVE EMMINGER

CONTRIBUTOR: MARKETING

Full recipe on <http://saveur.com>

The **best**   
drink for Spring!

The phrase the “bee’s knees”  
was used in Prohibition times as  
slang to mean “the best.”



## INGREDIENTS:

HONEY SYRUP

1 cup honey

1/3 cup hot water

COCKTAIL

1 oz. fresh lemon juice

3/4 honey syrup

2 oz. gin, preferably Breefeater

PREP TIME

5

MIN

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make the honey syrup: In a container, combine honey and hot water and stir until completely mixed. Use immediately or store and refrigerate for up to 5 days.
2. In a shaker tin, combine fresh lemon juice, honey syrup, gin, and ice.
3. Shake vigorously and strain into a coupe glass.



# Comparing the Tiger to the Cat

## REALLY HOW SIMILAR ARE THEY?

**CONTRIBUTOR:** JAMES CARMODY

*Full article on <http://catsinternational.org>*

What do you think? They are identical except for the size. Not only in appearance, but also in the way they think, move, eat, sleep and play.

Let's STOP, THINK, and COMPARE the natural instincts the wild tigers have living in their natural habitats to our domesticated tiger in our cats who live in our homes today. Our house cats are a smaller version with the same instincts. House cats make do with what is given to them by us to stimulate and emulate their ancestors. They both have the same natural instincts, they just come in a smaller compact package.

they really aren't all that different if we look to see what it is they need and must have to survive in an already

existing environment we call our family home. We must allow our little house tigers to experience the same needs their ancestors instinctually have displayed in the wild to exist for years. Tigers in the wild will choose necessary things to scratch, eat, sleep and eliminate, allowing them the freedom to be a tiger. We must let our little house tiger be just that tiger in a smaller package. A tiger in a cat suit.

### **Let's learn why cats need to scratch.**

Tigers scratch to scent mark their territory, not to sharpen their claws. In the wild, they choose one prominent tree, reach as high as they can, and drag their claws down the trunk. This leaves visible grooves, but it also leaves

a scent from their footpads. Big cats in the wild have a natural instinct to do a full body stretch scratching on trees. This behavior is to stretch all body muscles and allows them to remove the sheath of their growing nails to help keep them healthy and trimmed. It also serves as way for them to leave their scent behind for others to know who was there last. Your house tiger has the exact same instinct. Just on a smaller scale, not a tree, but a post. Some cats like to scratch horizontally or vertically. It is very important to have them to scratch in an appropriate place. When your cat rubs up against you or objects in your home, they are marking with their scent and claiming these things as theirs. This is a natural instinct both our little tiger and the wild tiger have.

Our house cat is closer to a wild tiger than most other companion animals in our home - unchanged by domestication, the cat's behavior is driven by its instincts for survival:

- Highly territorial
- Patrols and marks territory on a strict schedule
- Sleeping, eating and elimination behaviors match those of the wild

tigers

- They love to perch in high places from which they can safely view their territory
- Keen senses of hearing, sight (motion), smell and touch, designed for survival
- Extremely intelligent, curious, observant, and able to apply learned behaviors to new situations, long memory retention

- Very athletic
- Grace full with every move of a paw
- Both tiger and house cat have 30 teeth
- Tigers can live up to 30 years (the oldest house cat lived to be 38 years old)