

Free-Range Revelry A Pastoral Picnic

This month, *Country Living's* "Parties & Picnics" Contributor, Lela Rose, serves up a spread inspired by the wild blue yonder.



Designer Lela Rose (above right) sets a casual picnic outside her upstate NY barn replete with snacks, drinks, and pretty spring flowers.



"ANYTHING CAN BE A THEME FOR ME, even just the color blue," says fashion designer Lela Rose (lelarose.com), who finds ample inspiration throwing down a blanket and taking in the aerial aesthetic outside her New York barn. That, combined with a collection of old blue textiles and a love of French pottery (the stacked china in the photo above consists of vintage pieces secured with hot-glue) sets a perfect picnic palette. Even the menu hits a few blue notes, with indigo-hued potatoes topped with caviar and a blueberry beverage featuring berries shipped from Maine (joshpond.com). "They're perfectly sized, like a pearl," she says. Here's how to create your own stylishly serene blue-and-white scene.

Party Picks

Finer finds for a French-infused *pique-nique*.



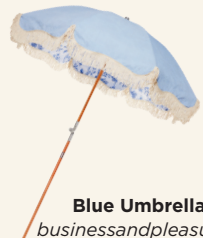
Transferware Tiered Stand from \$150; food52.com



Striped Picnic Basket \$47; amazon.com



Vintage Cheese Markers etsy.com for similar



Blue Umbrella \$169; businessandpleasureco.com

Menu

Drink
Blueberry Spritzer
Recipe, pg. 84

Snacks
Purple Potatoes with Caviar & Crumbled Blue Cheese
Assorted Cheeses, Dried Fruit & Nuts



DIY FABRIC COASTERS

Make five-inch-square fabric coasters from vintage blue-and-white fabric. Use the same fabric on both sides or different complementary prints.



Vibrant Necklace

"I own several of Rebecca Hannon's pieces. They're lightweight, and I love how she plays with color and texture."

Orla Interlocking Neckpiece rebeccahannon.com for pricing



Embellished Basket

Add a hint of on-theme color to a reed basket (\$38; [claire swanson.etsy.com](http://claireswanson.etsy.com)) by weaving a strip of thin silk or grosgrain ribbon through the openings. Tie ends together on the inside for a clean look or with a bow on the outside for a sweet touch.



PICNIC PROVISIONS

"Who doesn't like a dollop of decadence while picnicking?" asks Lela, referencing the salty caviar (she loves roecaviar.com) atop steamed purple fingerling potatoes with blue cheese. Assorted cheeses with a sliced baguette, dried fruit, and mixed nuts round out the meal.



This brass watering can (thefloralsociety.com) is an ideal drink dispenser.

WATERING CAN COCKTAILS

There's no reason to use a plain old pitcher when you can pour drinks from a more outdoorsy dispenser. Lela's Blueberry Spritzer (pg. 84) starts with a blueberry concentrate and can be served with just seltzer, or add a splash of bourbon or mezcal for a boozy version.



BROKEN CHINA TRIVET

"I love the mix-and-match potential of blue pottery," says Lela. Embrace that pieced-together approach by turning broken pieces into trivets or coasters. Break chipped china into smaller pieces using glass nippers (\$40; amazon.com). Lay them on a five- or six-inch-square of wood panel board (\$11; amazon.com), trimming as needed, with about ¼ inch between pieces. Glue to board with multipurpose adhesive, such as Weldbond. Let dry. Fill in gaps with premixed white tile grout. Once dry, wipe away excess grout with a damp cloth.