

December

Holiday Planning: The Karen Crouse Way First Half of December

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Festive

- Put up your tree if you have not already, and enjoy the ritual...music, lights, and a glass of something you love.
- Add greenery, candles, and small winter touches throughout your home. I decorate by season to keep it simple. Find inspiration [here](#).
- Finish ordering and wrapping gifts.
Tip: Wrap by category...family, friends, work. It keeps everything efficient and surprisingly fun.
- Prep a few easy snacks and drinks for drop-ins. I have recipes for [trail mix](#), [pulled pork](#), and [lemon blueberry parfaits](#) on my website.
- Restock essentials: guest towels, coffee, wine, sparkling water.
- Send remaining cards and packages early this week.
- Confirm December appointments (florals, mani-pedi, hair).
- Revisit your entertaining plan...menus, serveware, seating...and make any small adjustments.
Tip: If you are hosting, set your table a day early, if possible. It saves time and looks beautiful even before guests arrive.

Unforgettable

- Choose one night this week to do something festive just for you...a movie, holiday lights, dinner out, or simply DoorDash and the tree lights.
- Look over your social calendar and circle the gatherings you are truly looking forward to. Where you can, gently say no or shorten your time at the ones that feel more draining than joyful.
- Finalize holiday outfits and make sure everything is pressed and ready.
- Prep guest rooms or welcome baskets for overnight visitors.
- Plan your playlist or holiday soundtrack. It sets the tone for gatherings. My favorite [holiday playlists](#) are on my website.
- Double-check travel plans, pet sitters, and house checks. Print what you need.
- Pause midweek to reset...tidy one space, light a candle, take a breath.
Tip: Five quiet minutes with coffee and the tree lights can shift your whole day.

