

EDITOR'S

Picks FOR TOP Vintage Collectibles

BY JACQUELINE deMONTRAVEL

THINGS I AM LOVING NOW:



1. **Hotel silver:** Eating from the elegant silver of a fine hotel takes me to that place, even if I'm eating a bowl of leftovers.
2. **Porcelain teapots:** The tea stays warm, it makes me feel pretty and it tastes better.
3. **Vintage fabrics:** An easy way to add color to a table setting or room.
4. **Aprons:** Though practical, they're exclusively made for a woman and ultra feminine.
5. **Milk bottles:** Can be used for beverages, flowers and water on a nightstand.
6. **Anything French:** Linens, silver, rattan and old grain sacks are sturdy yet elegant.

COLLECTING GUIDE:

What's Hot, Where to Find It How to Display It

The top trends in romantic-style products.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRET GUM

TEACUPS

Why they're hot:

Just picturing yourself slowly sipping tea from a beautiful cup is relaxing. Given the hectic pace of our daily lives, there are few activities that require us to slow down and savor the experience as drinking a "cuppa" does. You can feel your blood pressure lower and your mind relax. And, of course, there are the well-documented health benefits of drinking black and green tea. To enjoy their tea-drinking experience to the fullest, people are hunting for elegant and unusual teacups as an important accessory.

What to look for:

The type of teacup a person uses says as much about them as the clothes they wear and their home décor. Do you consider yourself an elegant, sophisticated type? Then you might opt for a delicate china teacup from Royal Winton in one of their many beautiful all-over floral patterns. Look for the manufacturer's name stamped on the bottom. Do you love to travel to exotic places? Then Asian-inspired vessels from enjoyingtea.com might suit you. Are you more of a minimalist? Check out tsalon.com's basic but beautiful offerings.

How to decorate with them:

Teacups are one of the easiest accessories to decorate with. Stack colorful patterns inside each other for a casually elegant look. Put a tealight candle in the base for a clever candleholder. Hang them from a pretty ribbon above the kitchen entryway. Or put some potpourri into floral chintz china teacups and arrange them on a side table for a spring-garden vignette.

—MERYL SCHOENBAUM

Places to Hunt:

ebay.com
englishteastore.com (877) 734-2458
enjoyingtea.com
replacements.com
royalwinton.co.uk
Tea and Sympathy
108 Greenwich Avenue
New York, NY 10011
(212) 989-9735
teaandsympathynewyork.com
tsalon.com

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRET GUM



VINTAGE SELTZER BOTTLES

Why they're hot:

Antique seltzer bottles can be found online as well as in antiques stores and flea markets. In a wave of nostalgia, many people have started collecting vintage seltzer bottles. There are many vintage seltzer water bottles marketed on the Internet, including the vintage New York Seltzer Water bottles that were made in Czechoslovakia in the late 19th century to early 20th century. These bottles are collectables and are only genuine if they have the mark "made in Czechoslovakia" on the bottom of the bottles. The metal top will also have on it "N.Y. Seltzer Co., Detroit, MICH." (Note the old state abbreviation for Michigan.) Another vintage collectible is the seltzer water bottle made and marketed by Scholtz Brothers Jackson Bottling Co. in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. You can find them on the Internet.

How to decorate with them:

There are many ways to display them, especially if you have a bar or bar area in your home.

—JACQUELINE deMONTRAVEL



CAST IRON BOTTLE OPENERS

Why they're hot:

"Bottle openers help open the avenue to conversation," says Brad Feick of Treasure Gurus. "They are representative of the historic Wilton Co. bottle openers of the 1940s." You can find them in a variety of styles, themes and colors. "Some have unique comic faces, such as the 4-eyed face bottle opener and some, like the rocket ship bottle opener, are just great 1940s décor," says Brad. Their durability and efficiency have lasting qualities, and can be called upon daily for decades to come.

How to decorate with them:

There is a bottle opener that will reflect every style, such as mermaids and pelicans for the beach cottage and circus characters for a whimsical vignette. Their weathered colors and quirky look great anywhere you display collectibles. They can also make a table setting come alive. Brad Feick offers a diverse variety at Treasure Gurus including a bear and moose that have a rustic feel to a cabin or lodge, or buffalo in a western-themed bar. "The hand held bottle openers are a party favorite when entertaining outside; the anchor when entertaining on the boat or the crab at your beach house," Brad says.

HOTEL SILVER

Why is hotel silver a sought-after collectible?

Hotel silver captures the grandeur of an earlier time. It possesses a bit of romance as well—finding that special piece from the hotel where your parents honeymooned or from an establishment that you have a special memory of.

For many, the attraction is visual: the worn patina, fancy crests and logos give these pieces so much character. And hotel silver is wonderful to serve with.

How do you display it?

Places to Hunt:

- Yard sales
- eBay
- TreasureGurus.com
- TheWeatherStore.com
- PaulMaddenAntiques.com



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAIMEE ITA

I have built-in shelves in my 1939 home where I display my collection. It's an eclectic mix of everything from large servers

to small pieces, such as unusual little table-number signs. I also have pieces scattered through my home—a large water pitcher functions as a vase for flowers. Hotel silver looks lovely in just about any space.

Where can you acquire it?

It seems that hotel silver is getting a little more difficult to find these days. Scour flea markets, estate sales and antiques shows.