



FINDS

BY JULIE CLAY
PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN BLASE

Keep Your Kitchen Sharp

Cutting boards and cutlery

Whether slicing or dicing, chopping or simply serving hors d'oeuvres, this collection of cutting boards, knives, and spreaders are sure to do the job quickly and cleanly. At the very least, you'll make a good impression!



BOARDS YOU'LL WANT TO HOARD

Step into **The Cheese Nook** and discover an array of both serving and cutting boards to suit most tastes. Designed specifically for presenting hors d'oeuvres, lightweight wooden boards created in England by the Cloverleaf Company come in various shapes, including oval, square, and long rectangular breadboards. Choose from charming motifs, such as drawings of spices with descriptions and origins, or various labeled pastas. Salad lovers will appreciate a cutting board featuring a collection of salad-dressing recipes. Other boards depict cats, birds, fruits, or flowers.

Now that you have just the right board for spreads and cheeses, consider several spreader styles to accentuate it. The blades are standard; the handles are what set them apart. Among the wide selection are chili peppers, palm trees, shells, dolphins, butterflies, lighthouses, fish, sailboats, and flowers. Or create a set from doll-like figures, such as a cook and butler, a

tennis player and swimmer, or collect a couple of gardeners.

Whether for kitchen use or as an attractive serving tray, twelve-by-fifteen-inch tempered-glass boards by Counter Art can be a way to dress up a kitchen. Scratch-resistant and non-porous, the boards are dishwasher safe, and non-skid feet protect countertops. Best of all, the vibrant, colorful designs resist peeling and fading. Design choices at The Cheese Nook include palm trees with a bamboo border, wine bottles and grape bunches, beach scenes, and lighthouse scenes. A smaller, eight-and-a-half-by-eleven-inch board has a fruit-and-cheese theme.

If you prefer versatility in your cutting board to artistic merit, Cut & Pour might be the way to go. This dishwasher-safe, flexible cutting board by Peter Alan Designs, Inc., of West Palm Beach, is thick enough for regular use yet thin enough to bend and funnel cut food easily into a container. *The Cheese Nook*, 2075 Periwinkle Way, Unit 20, Sanibel, 239/472-2666.



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TOAST OF THE TABLE

Attractive glass cheese boards found at **Island Style** are actually recycled wine bottles, made by Wine Bottle Cheese Board Inc. in North Carolina. The board itself is shaped like a wine bottle—complete with label—with a raised lower end, curving to a neck at the top with a wire loop for hanging when not in use. Each comes with a cocktail spreader featuring a bunch of grapes or gold color for a handle, also fashioned from the recycled bottle. *Chadwick's Square, Unit 210, Captiva Island, 239/472-4343; Periwinkle Place, Unit 16, Sanibel Island, 239/472-6657; or 620 Duval St., Key West, 305/292-7800*



CUTLERY FOR COLLECTORS

Chef knives, professional cleavers, specialized knives for boning and carving are sold individually and in sets at **Kitchen Collection**. One can also choose from different cutlery handles including rosewood, pakkawood, Bakelite, and Soft Grip. And don't forget a sharpening steel, also available to match.

The Chef's Home collection is a five-piece set with eight-inch chef's knife, eight-inch carving knife, boning knife, utility and paring knives, and, as an added bonus, a cutting board. Other sets have from seven to forty pieces of cutlery and kitchen accessories, and four-piece sets of paring knives feature handles of different colors. Several sizes of knife blocks also are available, from small, steak-knife holders to large blocks designed to hold an assortment. Other cutting options include poultry scissors with blue, white, or black handles, as well as several different tools for sharpening blades.

Kitchen Collection offers choices in cutting boards, such as an apple-shaped wooden board. Perfect for a Thanksgiving turkey or pot roast, some boards feature a large indentation in the middle to hold the meat, while a groove along the edge of the board catches runoff juice. Wooden or polymer boards designed to go over a sink features a flow-through section at one end for cleaning fruits and vegetables, plus extension handles that allow the board to rest on the sink edges. They also have a juice-catching groove.

Sets of three poly boards in different colors also can be found here. Individual poly boards come in various sizes as well, including those with rubber-lined grips for cutting. *Kitchen Collection, Tanger Factory Outlet, 20350 Summerlin Road, Ft. Myers, 239/454-6080, www.kitchencollection.com*

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