



An Array of Trays

Whether you're serving a large dinner party, an intimate picnic, or just yourself, trays are among the most useful of household items. They also can be among the most attractive—evident by the treasure trove of trays shown here.

BY LIBBY GRIMM
PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN BLASE



BEADS AND BAMBOO

Pandora's Box offers an unusual zinc-colored metal tray. Dazzling amber and gold beads form the handy, oval-shaped tray's high rim. Bowls, candlesticks, and lanterns are available in the same design. For a lightweight alternative, check out the shop's rectangular bamboo tray with sides decorated in red. A matching wastebasket can be purchased, too. Combine practicality and pizzazz at your picnics by using wooden stacking trays that feature painted palm trees and seashells. *Periwinkle Place, 2075 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island, 239/472-6263.*





POLISHED LOOK

Maitland Smith Ltd. creates this stunning rectangular tray made of satinwood from the Philippines. Details such as brass handles and an inlaid “cobweb” design add to its beauty. You’ll find it at **Gary David Designs**, along with a little hexagonal-shaped trinket box as an optional accompaniment. *Heart of the Island Plaza, 1618 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island, 239/472-9091 or Burnt Pine Plaza, 24940 South Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs, 239/498-0707; www.garydavid.com.*



A PALETTE OF DESIGNS

Local seashells lend inspiration to Sanibel artist **Marianne Ravenna** as she works on a rectangular wooden tray, which is a custom order for a woman in Pennsylvania. “People love to have me paint shells,” explains Ravenna. She is widely known for her hand-painted wooden bowls that also feature fish, fruit, vegetables, and other designs. A growing number of orders are coming in for her trays, too, judging by the many plain pine trays she keeps buying from a supplier in Maine. *588 Boulder Drive, Sanibel Island, 239/395-0751; www.groovybowl.com.*



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TASTE OF THE TROPICS

Susan Painter, of Florida's East Coast, lives up to her name by producing a line of brightly colored ceramic dinnerware and gift items. Included is this round, pink, turquoise, yellow, and green tray. It is decorated with a tropical scene and boasts handles made of palm trees. You will find it at **Island Style**, where Pilar Baker, an employee at the Sanibel store, notes, "People collect Painter's stuff for years. Everything is dishwasher- and microwave-safe." Also popular are Tom and Sara Post's heavy red-clay dinnerware and giftware, featuring a green and blue oval tray that sports nickel-sized polka dots. *Chadwick's Square, Unit 210, Captiva Island, 239/472-4343; Periwinkle Place, Unit 16, Sanibel Island, 239/472-6657; 620 Duval St., Key West, 305/292-7800; or Gaylord Palms Resort, 6000 Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee, Florida, 407/586-1322; www.islandstylegallery.com.*

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Opera Ristorante	949-7050
Roy's - Seafood	498-7697
Silver Spoon Cafe	992-2528
South Bay Bistro	949-6030
Starbuck's Coffee	495-1185

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Buckle's	949-3760
DuFrane Jewelers Ltd.	495-9005
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SERVICES

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Robert of Philadelphia	
Hair Salon	949-0222

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Charles Randall Shoes	949-9000
Chico's	948-2288
Jami's	949-1210
JCC	949-1215
La Petite Pomme	498-3335
Mondo Uomo & Donna	947-3312
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