

Going All-Out Festive

The age-old elixir is ready for its close-up.

"Punch is the ur-cocktail," Searing says. "It dates to the 17th century, when sailors brought it back from their travels." *Punch* likely derives from the Hindi word for five, and traditionally it's a mix of five components: sweet, sour, water, spice, and alcohol. But with all that's available in today's thriving cocktail culture, the mixable possibilities are boundless.

"It's a great way to showcase the small-batch liquors you can find now, and throwing a punch party couldn't be simpler," Searing says. "If you don't have a proper bowl, use a salad bowl. One big block of ice, instead of cubes, keeps the punch from diluting. And use small glasses—the drink stays colder for longer in small doses, plus this stuff is potent!"

Right: Inspired by Dutch still lifes that captured moments mid-revelry, we created a tableau with antique accessories from Elise Abrams Antiques in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, known for its large collection of vintage punch cups and bowls. eliseabramsantiques.com



ROUNDUP PUNCH BOWLS



BOWL WITH LADLE
Clear glass bowl with a smoke-gray glass ladle. \$50. cb2.com



PEWTER BOWL
Handmade in Italy. By Match. #A799.5. \$965. ampersandshops.com



REGINA
Earthenware with platinum trim. \$995. ralphlaurenhome.com



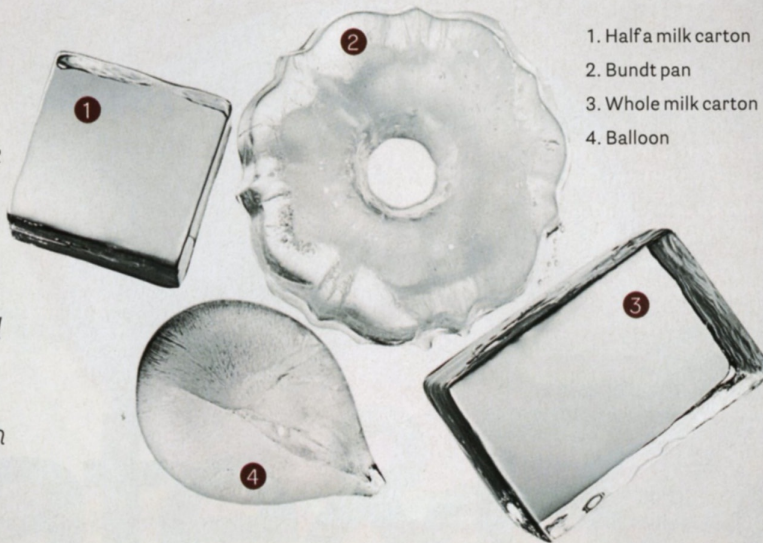
WISTERIA
Engraved glass. \$315. williamyeowardcrystal.com



SAFARI LARGE PEDESTAL
Handcrafted from Tuscan clay. \$246. vietri.com

Chill Factor

Try these easy-to-make sculptural ice blocks: An empty milk carton turns out one big block, or halve it before filling for a cube. Bundt pans and balloons produce odd shapes. Boil water before freezing it to keep it clear, and even add food coloring to give it a festive hue!



1. Half a milk carton
2. Bundt pan
3. Whole milk carton
4. Balloon

The Perfect Ladle!

Turn any bowl into an occasion for punch.

Presidio Silver Plated Ladle
\$40. williams-sonoma.com

