

HOUSE & GARDEN

Get it fast!

197

PLACES TO
CALL WHEN
YOU NEED—
CHIC NEW
CURTAINS
(tomorrow)
AN ELEGANT
SOFA
(in 2 days)
A COZY
GUEST ROOM
(this weekend)

**Special
Pullout Map*
THE NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN



TIME TRIAL SOFAS

POSING AS AVERAGE CUSTOMERS, WE RATED SOFA DEALERS FOR QUICKNESS AND QUALITY. OUR ELITE EIGHT

1 HOMER

• 212-744-7705 • homerdesign.com
WHAT WE ORDERED: Allure sofa in pale blue cotton velvet, \$11,125.
DELIVERY: Floor models delivered next day for a charge (\$275 in NYC).
QUALITY: Homer's ready-to-go pieces have a refreshing, one-of-a-kind look.
FAST TRACK: With more customers demanding speed, small stores like decorator-owner Richard Mishaan's are stocking sofas for quick delivery.

2 CRATE & BARREL

• 800-967-6696 • crateandbarrel.com
WHAT WE ORDERED: Claret sofa in Dobbins cotton stripe, \$1,999.
DELIVERY: One week, for a \$60 charge in metro areas.
QUALITY: The fabric looked brighter on the computer screen; luckily, we requested a swatch before ordering.
FAST TRACK: Excellent service, online or by phone. The Web site tells you what's in stock in your area. Since availability is the soul of fast shipping, that's a huge help.

3 DESIRON

• 212-353-2600 • desiron.com
WHAT WE ORDERED: Hudson sofa (floor model) in Peat, \$3,645.
DELIVERY: Next day. Charge varies.
QUALITY: The seat was deep and the length ample, but the Ultrasuede upholstery made us wish we'd had time to provide our own fabric.
FAST TRACK: After being featured on *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, a somicustom Hudson is available fast: four to six weeks if you go with one of two leathers or Ultrasuede in 120 colors, six to eight weeks if you use your own fabric.



DOBBINS SOFA
CARTE & BARREL

4 GEORGE SMITH

• In NYC, 212-226-4747; in L.A., 310-360-0880 • georgesmith.com
WHAT WE ORDERED: Ashley floor-model sofa, in wool blend, by Bergamo, \$12,870.
DELIVERY: Floor models delivered for a \$150 charge locally; beyond L.A. and NYC metro areas, charge varies.
QUALITY: Finest sofa we got in a hurry.
FAST TRACK: If you can afford it, the way to go. Each store's floor models, all discounted 20 percent, can be viewed online. Selected floor models are 40 percent off in March, May, September, and November.

5 NATUZZI

• 212-334-4335 • natuzzi.com
WHAT WE ORDERED: Lucas floor model sofa in Leopardi linen blend, \$2,300.
DELIVERY: In one week for \$150 charge.
QUALITY: The fabric was much nicer than other upholstery at this price point.
FAST TRACK: A quick solution if you ask for a floor model. Otherwise, you'll wait up to three months.

6 ROOM & BOARD

• 800-486-6554 • roomandboard.com
WHAT WE ORDERED: Manuel sofa in Sora Hershey cotton blend, \$1,049.
DELIVERY: One week, for up to \$199.
QUALITY: Fabric was rough but acceptable for the price.
FAST TRACK: Unexpectedly classic shapes for what was the cheapest fast option. Store clerks told us delivery would take ten weeks. Ours came right away.

7 PIERRE DEUX

• 888-743-7732 • pierredeux.com
WHAT WE ORDERED: Tourangelle floor-model sofa in Ochre, \$2,500.
DELIVERY: A week, with no charge.
QUALITY: Bright, saturated color.
FAST TRACK: Many floor models are for sale at its 17 retail stores.

8 CLASSIC SOFA

• 212-620-0485 • classicsofa.com
WHAT WE ORDERED: Cresent Tufted sofa in royal blue damask, \$5,900.
DELIVERY: Two weeks. Charge varies.
QUALITY: Amazing, considering this sofa was custom-made quickly. Down-wrapped foam filling was hard to find elsewhere.
FAST TRACK: The way to get decorator-quality sofas without hiring a decorator.

SOURCES ENTERTAINING



Pink dinner plate by Kate Spade, \$25, and Astor salad plate by Spode, \$38, through Michael C. Fina. 800-289-3462. Soleil glasses, \$11 each, Marston and Langer, NYC. marston-and-langer.com.

For spur-of-the-moment dinner parties, keep an inventory of basics, like white china and good flatware. Stock up on things you love.

For napkins in a pinch, cut up a sari and have a seamstress finish the edges
—Antony Todd, event designer



WISE WHITE

■ KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, BUT BE FLEXIBLE—ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO PATTERNED DISHES. REMEMBER:

WHITE IS TIMELESS, AND ALWAYS AVAILABLE. YOU CAN BRING COLOR TO THE TABLE WITH LINENS, FLOWERS, AND OTHER TOUCHES.

■ WHEN YOU HAVE A CHOICE, USE A LOCAL DEALER. WHEN OUR EXPRESS ORDER WITH A LOCAL LUXURY RETAILER WENT AWRY, THE COMPANY DELIVERED IT LATER THAT DAY BY MESSENGER.

■ TABLE LINENS

GRACIOUS STYLE FINE LINENS

● 888-828-7170
● graciousstyle.com
A stylish, chic selection of tablecloths and napkins.

NEIMAN MARCUS

● 888-888-4757
● neimanmarcus.com
Swift, streamlined next-day ordering process, with a great variety of styles, such as irresistible polka-dot napkins, right, \$60 for six.

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE

● 877-551-7257
● saksfifthavenue.com
Saks boasts exuberant colors for summertime entertaining, and will rush an order for a \$7.50 charge. We love the Sferra Brothers white linen napkins.

SOURCE PERRIER COLLECTION

● 888-543-2804
● sourceperrier.com
Overnight delivery Monday through Thursday if ordered by 11 A.M. EST.

■ GLASSWARE BLOOMINGDALE'S

● 800-232-1854
● bloomingdales.com
Wineglasses are the strong suit of this famous New York-based retailer.

GEARY'S BEVERLY HILLS

● 800-793-6670
● gearys.com
Web orders only, but its vast selection—we love the eminently browsable goblets section—makes Geary's a sure thing. Warning: customer service by phone is apparently nonexistent.

GUMPS

● 800-882-8055
● gumps.com
Go to Gumps for

names like Hoya, Baccarat, and Murano.

HORCHOW

● 877-944-9888
● horchow.com
Its excellent selection of stemware is available for overnight delivery (order by 1 P.M. EST), except on weekends.

JULISKA FLAGSHIP

● 203-316-9118
● juliska.com

Elegant shapes and old-world designs from the Czech glassmaker.

NEIMAN MARCUS

● 888-888-4757
● neimanmarcus.com
For a colorful table, try its huge selection of glassware. Retro tumblers, goblets, and flutes are a specialty.

SIMON PEARCE

● simonpearce.com
This designer's classic glassware and candlesticks anchor any impromptu soiree. Overnight delivery on weekdays, but it will cost you.

■ SILVER

ASPREY

● 800-883-2777
● asprey.com

For the ultra-chic party, choose from this venerable British firm's candlesticks and serving trays.

CHRISTOFLE

● 312-664-9700
● christofle.com
Speed depends on what is in stock, but with 23 patterns to choose from, you'll find something beautiful. Best overnight bet: stainless flatware.

GEORG JENSEN

● 212-343-9000
● georgjensen.com
This great Danish house aims to please, but

check availability before assuming you can get its pieces overnight.

THE SILVER FUND

● 877-224-5230
● thesilverfund.com
Have a vintage silver moment with its holloware.

■ FLOWERS

CALYX & COROLLA

● 800-800-7788
● calyxandcorolla.com
Ask for the optional color-coordinated vase. Our favorites: multicolored Gerber daisies, below. Order by noon EST for next-business-day arrival.

MARTHA'S FLOWERS

● 800-462-7842
● marthasflowers.com
Each delivery includes great tips on flower arranging and care. Order by noon for arrival next business day. Our favorite: the Rai and Weber tulip bouquet.

ORGANICBOUQUET.COM

● 877-899-2468
Smart-looking blooms arrive directly from the farm in 24 hours if you order by 1 P.M. EST. Best for its organic tulips.

■ CHAIR COVERS

FORTUNOFF

● 800-FORTUNOFF
● fortunoff.com
Rental chairs are fastest for a big party. Dress them up with chair covers like Fortunoff's ivory damask Palais seat slips. Delivered in a week.

NEIMAN MARCUS

● 888-888-4757
● neimanmarcus.com
Second-day delivery, or overnight with a charge. Worth it for the elegant hemstitched chair pad. For more, houseandgarden.com.

FIZZ NAPKINS

