



Emina's decorations PICTURES BY SACHA ULLA

How to get the look

Black Christmas trees are in vogue. Dress them with silver and pewter decorations. Or take a leaf out of the interior designer's book and go for chocolate and champagne. Take a green tree and dress it with varying shades of gold and brown baubles, silk flowers and lots of opulent ribbon. Burgundy and gold will, of course, always be the most popular theme.

To set up the tree, spread out the branches with the tips facing up slightly. A well dressed tree should have 75 lights per foot, attached to the outer tips of each branch.

Ribbon is in, tinsel is out. Once the tree is well lit, the ribbon is added, starting at the top. There are several techniques to putting ribbon on a tree. You can swirl it around anti-clockwise on a slight diagonal. A contemporary look is to run it from top to bottom, or you can put it on haphazardly. Either way, it is important to put it loosely from branch to branch, using the tree's tips to attach it.

Clusters of baubles should be set slightly inside the tree, as opposed to the ends of the branches. Add your most expensive bauble on the tips. Then add festive floral sprays and silk flowers to fill the tree.

