

FACT SHEET

By the Numbers: Historical recreations of table settings in Biltmore House

Biltmore's exhibition, *A Vanderbilt House Party - The Gilded Age*, leads visitors on a tour of Biltmore House through rooms where guests can observe how the Vanderbilts and the members of their house parties spent their days on the estate, as well as how servants worked below stairs to pull off a gala evening.

For one of the first times in Biltmore's modern era, the Banquet Hall table is set for 18 guests, with Vanderbilt silver, crystal and china on display as though for a multicourse dinner, and based on a seven-course meal that was actually served at Biltmore on Nov. 12, 1904:

First Course (Soup): Puree of tomatoes

Second Course (Fish): Fish mousse with lobster sauce

Third Course (Entrée): Braised calves brains

Fourth Course (Roast or relevé): Roast turkey with cranberry, sweet potatoes, spinach and cream celery

Fifth Course: (Game and Salad): Hot tongue and salade

Sixth Course (Dessert): Charlotte Russe

Seventh Course (Coffee): Coffee

Each of the 18 place settings on the Banquet Hall table includes:

- 1 dinner plate (burgundy and gold with GWV monogram)
- 1 fish fork
- 1 entrée fork
- 1 roast fork
- 1 game fork
- 1 roast knife
- 1 entrée knife
- 1 fish knife
- 1 soup spoon
- 1 napkin
- 1 bread
- 1 place card
- 1 sherry 4 ½" glass
- 1 hock 4 ¼" glass
- 1 claret 5" glass
- 1 champagne 4 ¼" glass
- 1 burgundy 5" glass

- 1 water tumbler

Also on the table:

- 8 salt cellars
- 8 salt spoons
- 4 salvers
- 5 tazzas
- 9 baskets
- 4 candelabra
- 1 tablecloth
- 1 epergne

In the Breakfast Room, the Dining Table and Sideboards are set for 12 guests:

Dining Table:

12 place settings. Each includes:

- 1 dinner plate (burgundy and gold with GWV monogram)
- 1 salad fork
- 1 dinner fork
- 1 salad knife
- 1 dinner knife
- 1 soup spoon
- 1 napkin
- 1 water tumbler
- 1 bread plate (burgundy and gold with GWV monogram)
- 1 butter knife
- 1 coffee cup (burgundy and gold with GWV monogram)
- 1 saucer (burgundy and gold with GWV monogram)
- Tablecloth

Also on the table:

- 4 silver toast racks
- 4 cream pitchers and 4 sugar bowls
- 4 salt cellars
- 4 salt spoons
- 4 pepper mills

Sideboard to the right:

- Tablecloth
- Silver coffee urn
- 6 teaspoons

Sideboard to the left:

- Tablecloth
- Silver eggcup set
- Chafing dish and stand
- Silver breakfast entrée dish with lid
- Silver compote
- 6 salad forks
- 6 dinner forks
- 2 serving spoons
- 1 cold-meat fork