



For a classic walnut brown elegant dining table, I chose a turquoise blue table cloth. This summer, printed table linens are all the rage. I opted for blue and white crockeries and stainless steel cutlery.

Blue china has a long history. By the beginning of the 17th century, Chinese blue and white porcelain was being exported directly to Europe. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Oriental blue and white porcelain was highly prized in Europe and America. It was sometimes enhanced by fine silver and gold mounts and collected by kings and princes. The European manufacture of porcelain started at Meissen in Germany in 1707. The detailed secrets of Chinese hard-paste porcelain techniques were transmitted to Europe through the efforts of the Jesuit Father Francois Xavier d'Entrecaille between 1712 and 1722.

We arranged for blue printed dinner plates, half plates, a blue striped water jug, a hand painted small jug for milk or juice and blue glasses in keeping with the theme. Turkish floral printed blue plates interspersed with white plates and serving dishes were used to lend a sense of balance to the table. Blue and white are classic colours for china, reminiscent of Chinese designs and traditional English patterns. Blue on blue makes for a wonderful mix. You can either keep to lavender blues, lean towards greener denim blues, or mix them all together. White mixed with blue looks both fresh and clean and this combination is readily available in a multitude of inexpensive containers and linens. Simple Chambery, ginghams and tea towels can easily be given an elegant finishing touch with the addition of fringing tassels. Couple your table ware with statement antique pieces and dry or fresh flowers and you have yourself an elegant focal point for your Eid celebrations!

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