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at home with... Jennifer Jasinski

A top Denver chef shares the favorite things that make her house a home

Kate Bailey reports ■ Photography by Paul Weinrauch

After more than 11 years as Wolfgang Puck's right-hand woman, (including corporate chef of the Wolfgang Puck Food Company) Jennifer Jasinski decided to simplify her life and bring her skills to Colorado's culinary scene. Today, she is the co-owner and Executive Chef of two of Denver's most acclaimed restaurants, Rioja and Bistro Vendôme, both located in Larimer Square. To discover the secrets behind this talented, stylish and savvy woman, we asked her to share some of the things that make her Denver home a comfortable and welcoming respite from her busy schedule.



1. "My four-year-old dog Bailey, who is a gorgeous pure-bred Saint Bernard, was born on April Fool's Day and is the light of my life. She loves to snuggle in bed with me."

2. "I have two Thai tapestries that are brilliant, reflecting my love for all things Asian...especially the artwork. I also have a beautiful watercolor of Buddha on the beach painted by a famous Hawaiian artist as well as chalk drawings and a tapestry from two small villages in Vietnam."

3. "The hutch in the dining room is an antique piece from California that my mother and I bought at an estate auction in Santa Margarita. It is filled with family heirlooms including some 1950s-style wine glasses that were from my mom and dad's wedding set, a few pieces of my Aunt Mary's bone china with silver trim (which is exquisite) and other various pieces that are near and dear to my heart."

4. "My clogs are a fabulous pair of Danskos that perfectly match the colors of Rioja, my first solo restaurant venture. Since I am a woman and have to dress in chef pants and a coat almost every day, I need to have a little bit of style, so I reveal my more fashionable side with my clogs."

5. "Books, especially cookbooks, are a constant inspiration. My grandmother gave me this much-loved "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" by Julia Child. She was an excellent cook and an even better host. I cherish this book even more now that my grandmother has passed away."

6. "As a chef, I love knives. One of my most prized, which hangs above my kitchen doorway, was a gift from Wolfgang and Company when I left after 11 years. It is engraved with 'to our favorite chef.' My other favorites are a sword from Vietnam inlaid with pearl and another small silver knife from China." >



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