

D10 CHRISTMAS

Holiday style in abundance locally

Yang Di

THE countdown to Christmas has begun. With less than three weeks to go until the big day, getting into the festive spirit locally is fun and easy.

Christmas decorations are an essential part of this Christian holiday. Give your home a festive touch by decorating it with ornaments and gifts for a splendid look that is most welcoming for guests.

Walk around the town and it is easy to find a variety of decorations in local markets, ranging from fancy lights to musical baubles and much more.

Yongjia Flower Market on Shaanxi Road S. and the nearby small shops have whatever you need to make your home a little more festive.

A quick stroll reveals an array of all the usual suspects when it comes to seasonal decorations, including baubles, bells, angels, stars and tinsel. Decorations cost between 10 yuan (US\$1.28) to 80 yuan but discounts are negotiable.

The market, of course, is one of the best places to pick up a Christmas tree in variety of sizes, both fake and real. A real tree costs between 150 yuan to more than 400 yuan and

prices vary from stall to stall.

However, what would Christmas be without a touch of elegance. Simply Life in Xintiandi offers more elegant and trendy holiday decor items.

Christmas candles add a soft glow on a winter's night. The festive candles will make this holiday season merry and bright. Simply Life carries a large assortment of various candle holders, ranging from classical to contemporary styles.

The superbly-crafted wrought iron candleholders, priced from 38 yuan to 168 yuan, add style and elegance to any table setting and also make a great gift.

"There seems to be a trend towards all colors coming out at Christmas," said Bya Patzner, shopkeeper and interior designer for Category Of 1 Interiors, a cozy furnishing shop on Shaanxi Road S.

"Gone are the days of red and green Christmas decorations. You can find blue, pink, gold, silver and bronze," said the Brazilian.

One-of-a-kind accessories for this season at affordable prices can be purchased at Category of 1 Interiors. Among the varied selection you will find large and small five point wrought iron stars that can be hung

on the wall as art, in addition to hand-sewn place mats and tablecloths.

"Family gatherings are such a special part of this season as most of us reach out to friends and neighbors as no one should be alone on Christmas, especially if you are new in a foreign country," Patzner said.

"Hold your parties in style. Prepare exquisite dishes and serve them on an even more exquisite table setting," she said. "You can buy seasonal place mats and tablecloths with coordinated napkins."

"We can decorate in this holiday season from the traditional red and green to fresh variations not immediately associated with the season — maybe something as simple as revitalizing your existing everyday decor," Patzner said.

Top choices at her shop include a Moravian star light made of paper that is custom-made to specifications, a unique range of Christmas and seasonal candles and holders, exquisite cards by watercolor artist Nancy Pong, as well as unique ideas to realize unique individual tastes.

"But if my customers lack ideas they can request (interior designer) Rebecca Thurston and me to make a house call to help them pull every-



The colors of Christmas are no longer limited to green and red as blue, pink, gold and bronze, among others, are finding favor for decoration.

thing together. This will make their Christmas far away from home a memorable experience," Patzner said.

Far beyond its religious meaning, the holiday is, in fact, a time for sharing. Such festive decor adds to the joyous occasion, invoking the spirit of Christmas after all.

Yongjia Flower Market

Address: 406 Shaanxi Road S.

Simply Life

Address: Unit 101, 159 Madang Road

Tel: 6387-5100

Category Of 1 Interiors

Address: No. 233 Shaanxi Road S.
Tel: 5466-0222