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# A Fruitful Welcome

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**P**ineapples aren't just for piña coladas. The tropical fruit is an emblem of hospitality and can be found on everything from doormats to decorative accessories to tabletop. But did you know that it was given its name because of its resemblance to the pine cone? It is said that Christopher Columbus discovered the fruit on the island of Guadeloupe in 1493 and that the European settlers gave it the name pineapple.

In a fun twist, the fruit that is associated with the home is in fact itself a pretty decorative object: when growing its fruit it can produce up to 200 flowers. It is the individual scale-like fruits that then fuse together that form the pineapple.

After its arrival to America, fascination with the pineapple quickly grew. Because of its scarcity, as it was indigenous to South America, any hostess who displayed one on the table said something about her skills as a hostess and her social status. It wasn't long before the pineapple was used as a decorative motif, and because of its social association it became a symbol of hospitality. The rest, as they say, is history.

Welcome home.



**1** Pineapple tray is part of the British Colonial Carved collection, 15½". Lenox, 800.63.LENOX, lenox.com

CIRCLE #720

**2** Ceramic pineapple in matte gray, \$22.99, Bloomingville, 888.852.2887, bloomingville.us

CIRCLE #721

**3** Giant pineapple pool float, 6', \$25, BigMouth, 800.592.0293, bigmouthinc.com

CIRCLE #722

**4** Decorative pineapple, Creative Co-Op, 866.323.2264, creativecoop.com

CIRCLE #723

**5** Flamingo Party Fresh Scents envelope sachet features pineapples in its packaging, The WillowBrook Co, 888.877.3132, freshscents.com

CIRCLE #724