



Noguchi Knife & Fork, Silverplate and wood, c. 1952, Courtesy The Noguchi Museum, NY.

Spoon Me

TOP CUTLERY PIECES THAT RAISE THE BAR AT YOUR PLACE SETTING

ALTHOUGH OUR EYES FALL ON DECORATIVE PLATTERS, FLOWERS, and glassware at the dinner table, flatware is where true flair comes into play. Recently, Sam Fox, president of Fox Restaurant Concepts (which operates in Scottsdale, Phoenix, Tucson, and Denver), was in his office surrounded by stacks of assorted flatware because tables at his newest concept—Olive & Ivy at the Scottsdale Waterfront—needed to be outfitted with the right gear. In the end Fox went with a pottery-like design from Heath Ceramics (www.heathceramics.com). “We wanted to think outside of the box for this product, instead of your standard commercial flatware,” he says. You should too, even if it’s for everyday ware. Here are a few ideas:

ASTA BY ALESSI

Staying true to Alessi’s Italian style, each piece is sleekly mirror-polished in stainless steel. The newest additions to this line are the mocha coffee spoon, fish fork, and fish knife, perfect pairings for the others, which includes a pastry fork, ladle, and coffee spoon. \$75.

www.alessi.com

ISAMU NOGUCHI

Noguchi, a celebrated Japanese-born sculptor, took a turn at table art with his knife and fork set. With a wooden circular base on the knife and an oval-shaped silver piece on the fork, attention to detail is not compromised, and the shapely forms are deliciously pleasing. Fork and knife set, \$130; spoon, \$80. www.design-museum.com; www.noguchi.org



Asta by Alessi



TWIGWARE BY MICHAEL ARAM

Inspired by a trip to India in the late '80s, Michael Aram, then a student of fine art, forged into metal art, creating a line of bowls, vases, cheese boards, and more that reflects the soul and energy. Continuing the trend, the five-piece Twigware set looks like it could rustle across the tabletop into a bowl of pasta. \$82.50. www.michaelaram.com

WISHBONE BY NAMBE

Designer Joost During worked on this five-piece place setting for Santa Fe-based Nambé. The gaps in the design allow for brightly hued placemats or tablecloths to burst through the stainless steel.

There is a two-piece serving set to match, should you want to build a mini collection of During's designs. 5-piece setting \$85; 2-piece serving set \$75. www.nambe.com



TEAK BY VIVATERRA

Imagine matching these clean and contemporary pieces with fresh salads, sliced fruit, or seafood, rounding out a light, earthy meal. Plantation-grown teak and stainless steel mingle into one solid design. \$49 per place setting; \$189 for 4 place settings. www.vivaterra.com

GROSGRAIN BY VERA WANG

The woman who made her name with bridal-gown designs and once edited *Vogue*, has dipped into many ways to decorate the home in recent years. This Grosgrain five-piece sterling silver setting recalls Southwestern sensibility with its tiny studs. \$550.

www.verawang.com

