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interior design business, she and partner Andrés Ibarra produce a portfolio of boutique wines using grapes sourced from La Presa Vineyards in the Santa Ynez Valley.

Now Rideau has collected her years of experience wearing multiple hats as a designer, wine professional, and consummate hostess into a book. *Caren Rideau: Kitchen Designer, Vintner, Entertaining at Home* (Pointed Leaf Press) stands out for its warmth and candor. Rideau shares personal stories, showcases her own Mid-City L.A. bungalow and a selection of favorite client projects, documents her favorite recipes, and offers tips for wine pairings and insight into the kind of relaxed, convivial, and stylish gatherings she and Ibarra host.

"Through being a vintner and a kitchen designer, a lot of that overflows into our social life," she says. "It's a natural thing that we entertain a lot." In addition, the book is a celebration of community that she has further articulated through projects such as the brightly hued Frida cabinet collection, which she describes as being "inspired by the colors of my culture, and being a Latin and a brown-skinned woman."

In a world of complex gadgets and state-of-the-art appliances, Rideau still likes to keep things classic and timeless. When undertaking new work, "I always say, 'Focus on what you're going to use and how you entertain, and stick to that.'" And oftentimes the trust she establishes with her clients leads to her transforming other spaces, too. That said, the kitchen remains the

heart and soul of Rideau's design practice and passion.

"I think if you cook, you understand kitchens at a completely different level," she says. Integrating the technical devil-is-in-the-details process with setting the scene for physical and emotional nourishment requires a deft hand, creative mind, and open heart. "You can always tell the kitchens that are designed by a kitchen designer," Rideau adds. ■

➔ Nourishing design BY JESSICA RITZ

IN HER SUMPTUOUS NEW BOOK, DESIGNER AND VINTNER CAREN RIDEAU SHARES HER SECRETS FOR ENTERTAINING WITH STYLE

FOR CAREN RIDEAU, honing her kitchen design expertise is an expression of her worldview and lifestyle.

"I can make any kitchen look beautiful, but my favorite is designing a kitchen for someone who loves to cook," Rideau observes. This perspective makes perfect sense, given that she is an avid home cook and a vintner whose life and work are closely intertwined. Since establishing Kitchen Design Group in Pacific Palisades 25 years ago, she has been responsible for some of the most stunning—and extremely functional—cooking and gathering spaces in the Los Angeles area, as well as in other cities. In addition to running a thriving



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