DOWNTON DINING ROOM

INDEED, THERE REMAINS a dress code for dinner. In the style of the aristocratic Crawleys, and *Bright Young Things* and *Brideshead* before, the innate formality calls for Stoke-on-Trent china, ancestral silver, and linen finery. But 21st-century versions replace the butler's stick with decidedly more bravado: Mismatched export china is arranged atop vibrantly patterned tablecloths, and heirloom cut crystal pairs with casual colored glassware for a relaxed adaptation of evening entertaining that everyone (save Carson) might readily embrace.

The dining room at Hampshire's Highclere Castle, set of the iconic PBS series

1 and 10. Lion wine coaster and biscuit barrel; asprey.com. **2 and 12.** Coalport **Indian Tree vegetable bowl and Hong Kong cups and saucers;** replacements.com. **3, 8, 14, 15, 19, and 20.** Hadley Antiques **Antique English silver tableware;** 917-545-7775. **4, 5, and 6. Camilla wine glass, Iona goblet, and June salt dish;** williamyeowardcrystal.com. **7. Antique George II candlesticks;** jrobinson.com. **9, 13 and 18.** Royal Crown Derby **Chelsea Garden dinner and dessert plates and Imari dessert plate;** devinecorp.net. **11. Renaissance Gold sugar and creamer;** wedgwood.com. **16 and 17. Pseudo Tobacco Leaf dinner plate and soup bowl;** degournay.com. **21.** GP & J Baker **Caldbeck fabric;** leejofa.com.

SEATS OF DISTINCTION

TODAY'S FINEST DINING CHAIRS INVITE CENTURIES OF STYLE TO THE TABLE.

A playful silhouette inspired by its mid-century modernist namesake, Jean Royère. **Royère armchair;** julian chichester.com.

A quintessential English design with hand-stitched horsehair and button-tufts. **Salon chair;** howelondon.com.

A petite, refreshingly colorful take on the traditional oval-back chair. **Ruby chair;** justinvanbreda.com.

Dyed leather sheathes a steel frame in this dapper remake of a 1950s classic. **Stitched armchair;** rose uniacke.com.

Martin Brudnizki and Nicholas Jeanes's leather seating slims down the classic club chair. **Upham chair;** and objects.com.