

"SINNER'S DINNER"

Planning the Globe, Mount Pleasant, S.C.; 843/971-6034; planningtheglobe.com

"A *devious* table design was born and inspired by the combined thought processes of the Planning the Globe team one dark and misty evening back in 2006. Fueled by a few bottles of deep ruby-red Hungarian Bull's Blood wine, the creative juices flowed into a frenzy of artistic design—the only restriction to our enthusiasm being the maximum 50-word description.

Next, an artist was commissioned to bring our creation to life. A fire pit; Gothic flatware and cutlery; upside down



candelabras; deep, rich chair covers; fire-retardant fabrics; silver decorative pieces from a bygone age; and the *creme de la creme*—custom DVDs displaying the seven deadly sins and the evening's menu to a background of haunting music. Ensuring that if you were bound for hell, one of the seven deadly sins would send you there.

Ah, the challenges! When would they end? Would our table meet the fire code standards? Would our fabrics pass the fire-retardant test? Would our fabrics arrive on time? (Actually, they didn't arrive until after the judging had taken place!) Would our custom-made table be allowed onto the conference floor? Would we have enough insurance coverage for our silver? Would there be security at night to protect our masterpiece? Would the wind from a service door affect our hanging candelabras? And yes, the greatest challenge of all—would show management get what we were trying to do?

A resounding *yes* to all of the above!

Alas, while we did not win (and *bravo* to the winner), we can say with pride that we did, by far, receive the heaviest traffic for the rest of the week. Was it because of our interesting design? Or were visitors hungry to discover which seat they would take at our most deadly table? That is for you to decide!"—*Chris Greenslade*

VENDORS Chameleon Chair Collection (chairs), 310/677-2500; Dazian Fabrics (custom tablecloth), 877/432-9426 or 877/232-9426; First Generation Productions (printing and poster design); Snyder Event Rentals (tabletop elements and pretesting), 800/932-5381; The Charleston Silver Lady (silver); Tiger Lily Florist (black roses) ■

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