

# The List

Ten things Laura Calder, celebrity chef and author of *Dinner Chez Moi: The Fine Art of Feeding Friends*, can't live without

BY SIMONE OLIVERO

**1. My favourite read**

I love the personal pieces at the back of *The Spectator*. Essays are my favourite form of writing because they're so intimate.

**2. My paper collection**

I always have some nice wrapping paper from The Paper Place on hand for last-minute presents. There's so much junk in the world, it's a delight when something's beautiful just for the sake of it.

**3. My Mo851 rain slicker**

Walking is one of my greatest passions. It's a way of clearing my head, and I don't ever let rain stop me. I bought my raincoat for a trip to Vancouver Island and have been attached to it ever since.

**4. My big cutlery**

My flatware is from an antique dealer in Germany, and it's huge. The soup spoons are like ladles. They feel so substantial. I can't stand the flimsy stuff you get at restaurants.

**5. My local watering hole**

When I moved to Toronto in 2008, I didn't know anyone. A friend in Vancouver set me up with a group that met at The Artful Dodger every Friday. I'm 40 years younger than everyone else, but I enjoy their company so much. It's been a nice touchstone in a strange city where life was grim for a couple of years.

**6. My Veuve Cliquot**

I never used to drink champagne much because there were so few options in Canada and it's so expensive, but on my last trip to France, I ended up having a glass every day. I felt like I was in another era.

**7. My Staub Dutch oven**

It's perfect for making one-pot comfort dishes in winter. It looks handsome on the stovetop, and I bring it right to the table because it gives the impression there was some serious cooking happening.

**8. My gold nugget**

A friend of mine was trying to get a reservation at Noma, an exclusive restaurant in Copenhagen. Another friend runs a gold mine in the Yukon and suggested he write a letter to the restaurant offering to pay in gold nuggets—he did, and he got the table. I love this story. My Yukon friend later gave me a nugget, and I put it on a chain. I wear it for luck.

**9. My dictionary**

When I was a student I bought the *Reader's Digest Oxford Complete Wordfinder*. It's so well laid out: I love that the synonyms come right after the definitions.

**10. My happy music**

I'm a bit obsessed with the period between the two wars. That perky music—the Andrews Sisters, Cole Porter—cheers me up when I'm in the doldrums.

