

STERLING IDEAS

As with so many brilliant ideas, this one started on a napkin. When L.A. interior designer Matthew White and Paolo Costagli, president of Nardi USA, met for a drink early in 2003, they got to chatting about White designing a line of tableware for the celebrated Venetian jeweler. White sketched a candelabra on a cocktail napkin; Costagli loved it, and a beautiful partnership took shape. White has since designed two sterling silver tableware collections for Nardi: Laguna (pictured) and Moretto, which uses the lily, jeweled head of a Moorish prince as its signature motif. Both lines consist of a seven-pound candelabra (\$16,000 a pair), a saltcellar (\$780) and a place-card holder (\$480). Each item is handcrafted by metalworkers steeped in the traditions of Venice—to the extent that they only speak Venetian dialect. The collections are available at matthewwhitedesign.com; at the Nardi showroom in New York, 730 Fifth Ave., Suite 2101, 212-974-9360; and at the shop in Venice, Piazza San Marco, 39-041-522-5733.

—EMILI VESILIND

