

Q & A

BY BARRI LEINER

Las Vegas. A television programming convention swarming with buyers, sellers, and celebs. All are touting new hit shows, reruns, and remakes – including the queen of crafts, gardening, cooking, sewing, and other assorted “Good Things.” Yes, Martha Stewart is due to arrive in less than ten short minutes for our interview and a densely populated book signing. (The hour-early line is already eighty fans deep.)

What to do when she enters. . . A deep curtsy? Too formal. The confession? Tell her I wait eagerly for every show, issue, and personal appearance? So plebeian, unprofessional. How about, “I saw you at the blackjack table at Caesar’s last eve – did all that gilt and green felt work for you?”

She glides in. Small entourage. Sizes up the crowd. Sleek Armani suit, layered blonde bob, generous smile. We tuck into the corner, chat for a bit, dismiss gambling as an amusement, and make lampshades and buttery French pastry dough all afternoon. Well, maybe in my next life. This time, we Q&A-List with:

Martha Stewart



Q. *What famous person would make the perfect dinner guest?*

A. Fidel Castro. I have a fascination with him.

Q. *To whose home would you most like to be invited?*

A. Pope John Paul II.

Q. *What passed hors d'oeuvre would you pass on?*

A. Almost all of them.

Q. *What's your worst vice?*

A. None.

Q. *What is your pet peeve?*

A. Smoke.

Q. *Mom's best advice?*

A. You can do anything.

Q. *Is there a craft you've yet to conquer?*

A. Tatting. An ancient form of crocheting.

Q. *Will we learn about it on the show?*

A. Good idea.

Q. *Have you been to Chicago?*

A. Many times. I love Chicago. I have good friends there. It's a beautiful city, the positioning of the lake is perfect. I come for business, shopping, and antiques.

Q. *Where?*

A. Antiquing everywhere, and the Jil Sander store for suits.

Q. *Which item could you never travel without?*

A. A good book. I'm reading *The Shipping News* by Anne Proulx. I highly recommend it.

Q. *When is the best time of day?*

A. Early morning. It's when I think the clearest.

Q. *When all the good ideas come to you?*

A. No, they come all the time.

Q. *Do you jot them down?*

A. My mind is a good file box.

Q. *Let me in on a beauty secret.*

A. Good food, good exercise, and lots of stimulation.

Q. *Does fashion have a place in your life?*

A. A minor role, but it's not terribly important.

Q. *What would we find most in your closet?*

A. Pant suits and overalls. Good white t-shirts are an important basic.

Q. *Do you favor a designer?*

A. J. Crew, Armani, and Jil Sander.

Q. *How do you stay slim?*

A. Starvation.

Q. *What's your favorite recipe in The Martha Stewart Cookbook?*

A. Bottom-Crust Apple Pie, page 446.

Q. *How do friends describe you?*

A. As kind and generous.

Q. *What's your best trait?*

A. I'm inquisitive.

Q. *The worst?*

A. I'm inquisitive.

Q. *What's your most envied possession?*

A. My animals.

Q. *How far have you gone to find the perfect something?*

A. As far as it takes.

Q. *What does Martha do for fun?*

A. I like to be with friends.

Q. *How do the person and the persona differ?*

A. Very little actually.

Q. *I'm coming to dinner, what will we have?*

A. Something spur of the moment and garden fresh.

Q. *What's new?*

A. “Martha By Mail” (800-950-7130), and “ask Martha” – I’m going on-line.

Q. *What's your favorite magazine?*

A. *Martha Stewart Living*, of course. *National Geographic* and *Smithsonian*, as well.

Q. *What would we be most surprised to learn about you?*

A. I love liverwurst.