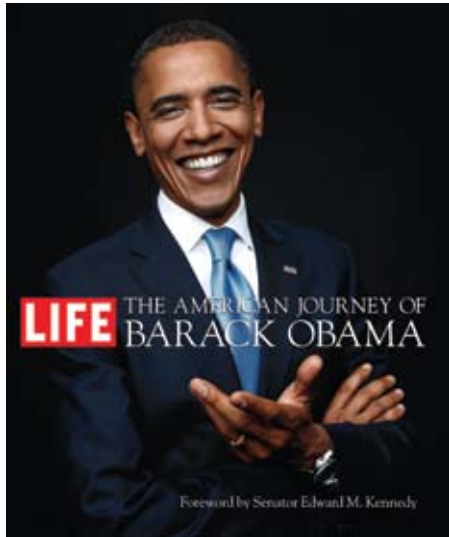


# BOOKS: Table Talk

The holidays mean more guests than usual passing through your home—and scrutinizing every inch of it. Distract them with a few of our favorite gift-worthy coffee table books. **By Jessica Dufresne**



◀ **The American Journey of Barack Obama**

Edited by Richard Sullivan (Little, Brown and Company, \$24.99)

Your table collection wouldn't be complete without this in-depth look into the private life of one of the most important figures in American politics. Stocked with essays by noteworthy writers and personal photos that span Barack Obama's childhood in Hawaii to intimate moments with his wife and daughters, the book captures every step along his quest for the highest office in the land.



◀ **Distinctive Vintages: Fine French Wines & Spirits**

By Alain Stella (Rizzoli, \$200)

Everything you need to know about French winemaking is packed in this limited-edition, encyclopedia-like guide. The stunning gatefolds, moveable pieces, and die-cuts complement text detailing the histories of Cognac, Bordeaux, and Champagne.



◀ **Well Souled South Africa**

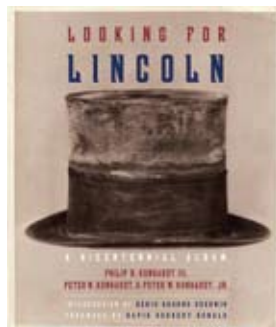
Edited by Mital Shah (Well Souled Inc., \$110)

This first installment in a series, conceived from the idea that "style lives everywhere," features former fashion executive Shah traveling off the beaten path within South Africa. Her mission: to capture the country's heart and soul through the fashions and lives of its diverse citizens. The result is 312 pages of vibrant, larger-than-life images and interviews. Limited to only 5,000 copies, visit [wellsouled.com](http://wellsouled.com) for yours.

**Looking for Lincoln: A Bicentennial Album**

By Philip B. Kunhardt III, Peter W. Kunhardt, and Peter W. Kunhardt Jr. (Knopf, \$50)

If Abraham Lincoln is one of our most fascinating presidents, the Kunhardt family is among our foremost Lincoln historians. This next volume in their quest to demystify Honest Abe begins with his assassination and delves into his life and legacy, with help from archival photos and letters, and anecdotes from the likes of Frederick Douglass. On deck: a small-screen version of the book, airing this winter on PBS.



◀ **21 Nights**

By Prince (Atria, \$50)

Consider this a gift from the Purple One to you. The thick tome, which owes its name to Prince's 21 nights at London's O2 arena in 2007, offers an intimate look—from the stage to the hotel—into nearly one month in the life of the icon, as seen through the lens of Randee St. Nicholas. Original poetry, lyrics to new music, and a CD of post-show jam sessions are included. □



OBAMA SPREAD PHOTO: CLEMENT WARTIZ