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Stylish options for eating in front of the TV

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No one's on the fence when it comes to TV dining: You're either an enthusiastic proponent, or horrified at the very idea.

Our family sits unapologetically in the former camp. We've tried using the excuse that both my husband and I work in media and we're taking one for the team, but really we're just avid TV viewers.

Good food and good television simply go together.

Far from being a replacement for a social meal, TV dining can be a great shared experience. And if you aren't in the convivial spirit, a quiet meal can be savoured solo in one's comfiest chair, with digital entertainment at hand.

Where do you put the tray? Casual dining calls for sturdy, easily cleaned surfaces.

Large square coffee tables offer ample space for a group nosh. Modernists on a budget will love Innovation's simple yet sophisticated Irock Tables in an array of vivid hues.

This season, trunks have returned to the living room – another example of the trend toward multi-functional furniture. Store cozy throws and extra floor pillows inside the large ones. Use smaller styles for seasonal accessories or board games, when space is at a premium.

Most of the new trunks won't remind you of your college dorm. Clad in luxurious leather and trimmed in polished metal, these are smart and sophisticated. Pottery Barn's Britanic trunk is a stunner, combining utility and elegance.

Some decor-watchers see the waning of the storage cube ottoman, while others say its versatility makes it more popular than ever. There's no doubt the ubiquitous cubes are practical additions to family rooms and smaller spaces. Several have a lid that inverts to a tray.

Sourcebook

- <http://www.homegoods.com> - leather ottoman, \$79; leather cube, \$39.99; fabric cube, \$29.99
- <http://www.westelm.com> - storage cube, \$159; square wood trays, \$19
- <http://www.csnstores.com> - Innovation Irock table, \$139.99
- <http://www.potterybarn.com> - Chase Bench, \$169-199; Expedition leather trunk, \$1,299; Britanic Trunk, \$1,599; Kilim Bench, \$499; Kilim Cube, \$229



Innovation's Irock Collection of tables.

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