

Burgundy red

Rich purple-based hues of red are decadent and deeply alluring for more dramatic settings

ike fine red wines these deep reds have gorgeous plummy notes and a complex depth. Full of warmth, they make an ideal choice for a dining room or library. Vanessa Konig, director of Konig Colours, says that plum reds

such as Sitwell Red (*above right*) "have an underlying depth of deep magenta at its base. It works really well in gloss, being perfect for joinery. The gloss really brings out the deep hues of the colour and seems to be having a renaissance." She also adds that this hue can be contrasted with a vibrant green to create a stylish, cosy bedroom, accented with coral in a modern study or used for cabinetry in a kitchen against mineral-white walls and slate floors.

Lending itself perfectly to classical schemes, wine red works well in grander settings to add gravitas. For an opulent look it pairs well with gold and is decadent when used for silk damask curtaining or fabric-lined walls.

Chic & crisp

Purple-based reds look wonderful in evening lighting, making them a perfect choice for dining rooms. Choosing a bold colour shows confidence and sets a cosseting mood for dinner guests. In addition, Crown Paint's colour consultant Judy Smith adds that "colour psychologists believe red induces appetite; they believe this is directly related to the physical effect red has on our bodies... it is thought to stimulate the senses, promote activity and raise the blood pressure."

Here (above right), the colour (Scarlet Ribbon by Crown Paints) has been used on the walls, enveloping the room with richness. Clean-lined contemporary furniture and crisply contrasting white and black hues keep the room modern and bold. To soften the look, a patterned fabric could be used for window treatments – Roman blinds rather than curtains might work best. Gold finishes and detailing on furniture would add a feeling of opulence.



This room (above) by the highly respected interior designer Alidad features a limited use of red, but shows how powerful the colour is, immediately drawing the eye in this hallway. "Red is one of those colours which brings with it a richness and warmth," he explains. "There wasn't much furniture in this entrance hall, so I used the red to balance the tapestry with the space and to bring some welcoming warmth."

A classic silk damask in a rich claret red has been used for the upholstery, whereas the side table (by Thomas Messel for Alidad) has a slightly more contemporary feel, upholstered in red velvet with stud detailing. A tapestry introduces another layer of colour with blues and greens, however, everything else is designed to let the warmth of the red radiate. Stone or marble floors are the perfect choice. Gilt frames and finishes on lighting and other fixtures is also a must. Any other furniture additions, if space allows, should also have a classical feel in keeping with the period of the property.

In such a scheme additional colour should be limited, but another small hint of red could take the form of antique books or, as seen here, with a large display of red roses. Alidad's use of red is concentrated to a small vignette within the large entrance, creating a focal point and proving that when using red accents, it is important the items used deserve attention, as they will always command it. >

PAINT SWATCHES OPPOSITE TOP LEFT (FROM LEFT)

- Pomegranate Seeds, from £23 for 2.5l v500 Emulsion, Valspar
- Red Velvet, £48 for 2.5l Perfect Matt Emulsion, Designers Guild
- Sitwell Red, £48.50 for 2.5l Low Sheen Emulsion, Konig Colours

OPPOSITE, FROM TOP

- · Circular Wave mirror in Antiqued Parchment, £POA, Simon Orrell Designs
- Handmade Manhattan drinks cabinet, £21,000, Amy Somerville
- · Walls, Scarlet Ribbon; woodwork, May Queen, both £21.50 for 2.5l Period Collection
- Matt, Crown Paints • Wonkiware 20-piece Organic
- Sand dinner party set, £320, The Conran Shop · Le Buffet cupboard, £6,500,
- Victoria Stainow · Kashgar velvet fabric, Red/Gold, £98 a metre. Zoffany

 Tripod Walnut wooden floor lamp with red velvet lampshade, £220, Habitat

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

- Interior design by Alidad
- Eighteenth-century Aubusson Verdure tapestry with a wading bird, a river with a bridge overhead and a chateau (267cm x 184cm), £18,000, Julia Boston
- Edwardian umbrella, hat and cane stand in brass and faux bamboo, £399, Lorfords
- · Brodie Console in high-gloss lacquer walnut, £3,998, Justin Van Breda
- Jefferson red leather box. £99, India Jane
- · Baroque wall light £1,395, Beaumont & Fletcher
- · Eléonore chaise longue, £2,532, Oficina Inglesa