

GRACIOUS LIFESTYLES

Secrets Of Solicitous Hosts And Great Guests

(NAPSA)—Being a good guest or host can be as simple as remembering the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” etiquette experts advise. Here are a few practical tips from Donata Maggipinto, 1-800-FLOWERS.COM lifestyle and entertaining expert:

For The Host

- The tone of the occasion starts at the door, as does your guest's first impression. Greet each guest warmly with a handshake or a kiss and then escort or direct him or her to the party location.

- Specify the arrival time and, if necessary, such as when hosting weekend guests, the departure time, too.

- Good conversation is usually the most interesting aspect of a get-together. Introduce topics about which guests can speak knowledgeably. Direct questions to shy guests so they will be part of the conversation, too.

For The Guest

- Arrive within 15 minutes of the start time.

- Dress appropriately.

- Come armed with conversation topics that are universally acceptable, such as travel, movies and books. Try to leave controversial subjects at home.

- Thoughtful touches, such as bringing small gifts for the host's children or pet can earn good grades for good graces. The best gifts are generally those that require little effort on the



The gift of flowers in a beautiful vase is one way to make yourself a welcome guest.

host's part. An arrangement of flowers in a vase, for example, is preferable to a loose bouquet because the host won't have to attend to the flowers. The Sunflower Vase Arrangement from 1-800-FLOWERS.COM featuring bright blooms in a cobalt vase can make a great gift. Send it before the party to give the host the chance to place it just perfectly before guests arrive.

Being a good host and a good guest, like other aspects of good manners, is about common sense and sensitivity to others. Pay attention to your guests and honor your hosts with grace and good humor and you'll likely be repaid with pleasure and gratitude.