

ENTERTAINING IDEAS

The Ease Of Entertaining: Serve It Up Simple

(NAPSA)—Planning a warm-weather party can be fun and easy. Try these tips:

Set The Mood

A theme can help keep guests in a festive mood. Decorate your yard with palm leaves and fresh flowers and use straw mats as place settings for a tropical ambience. If you're entertaining in the evening, consider using yard torches to add lighting—and to help keep mosquitoes away.

Fun Foods

Grill up easy-to-eat finger foods such as skewered pineapple shrimp or miniveggie kebabs so guests can mingle while they sample the goods. Also, keep the main course light by focusing on salads and fruits and use cooling herbs and spices such as cilantro and mint to add a fresh, seasonal flavor.

Simple Serving

Serving potluck style is popular at parties, especially in today's economy. You might also serve up platters of cold cuts alongside simple side dishes. That way, guests can eat at their leisure, and you'll spend less time running between table and kitchen. If grilling, try to keep it reasonably easy with hamburgers, veggie burgers and traditional barbecue fare. You can also save time and effort by serving up ready-to-drink cocktails along with the nonalcoholic beverages you offer guests. For instance, BACARDI® Classic Cocktail Raspberry Mojito is a mix of rum, natural lime and mint flavors, plus an extra burst of ripened raspberries. The refreshing beverage—a variation of the legendary Original BACARDI Mojito—is conveniently designed to pour and drink.

Making Music

Be sure to load up the iPod with various tunes. Soft music

Great Outdoor Gatherings

Spice up your next outdoor party with these ideas:

- **Dress It Up**—Decorate plain lawn chairs and picnic tables with sashes, ribbons and flowers.
- **Spread The Word**—Use themed invitations to set a festive mood.
- **Water, Water Everywhere**—Keep plenty of pitchers of cool water available to help guests stay hydrated.
- **Keep It Simple**—Save time by serving ready-to-drink cocktails, along with the nonalcoholic beverages you offer guests.

For more tips and ideas from Bacardi, visit www.bacardi.com.



allows people to chat, while club music helps energize guests. Try to strike the right balance with both music selection and volume.

Made In The Shade

If you're hosting a daytime party, be sure to provide plenty of ways for guests to escape the sun. Set up umbrellas and chairs in different corners of the yard along with a few seating arrangements under any shade trees you might have. You might also suggest guests head into the house to cool off if it gets too hot.

Serving Tips

Ice water, club soda and seltzer are party staples. Be sure to have plenty of ice on hand as well as garnishes such as sliced fruit for drinks. Make sure to offer light, seasonal-type drinks to match the mood and taste of your guests. The raspberry mojito is especially thirst quenching and a welcome backyard treat with its fruity flavor.

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