

Fabulous feasts

It's possible to get friends, family and furry animals together under one roof with the right kind of planning. *BAZAAR* covers every angle so you can throw the perfect Christmas dinner without breaking out in a sweat

PARTY PLANNERS

Tips from the experts. Better still, why not let them plan your fabulous feast, leaving you more time to buy those presents and enjoy yourself

Luncheon, cocktails or dinner? Events Wizard teach you how to plan, plan, plan

A pink-and-white theme that carries through from the invitation to the table setting



The menu

Luncheon: Perfect for a light afternoon gathering that's low on alcohol. Plan a light but fun menu. Set the mood with music, but nothing too high-tempo – it's the afternoon after all – and you still have that evening party to go to.

Cocktails: For a relaxed and stylish get-together, cocktails are the way to go. Don't forget a well-stocked bar as well as light nibbles and hors d'oeuvres.

Dinner: For a formal sit-down affair, a traditional Christmas dinner will impress. A well-planned full-course menu is always something people look forward to. Don't forget after-dinner entertainment – you don't want your guests leaving right after coffee.

Top tip: For an almost hassle-free party, limit the number of guests and don't pick a demanding menu. Look for elegant recipes that can be made ahead of time or order from your favourite restaurant – it's not cheating, it's common sense!

The guest list

Always make two lists – an A list and a B list

- Send out your A-list invites first, and wait for responses to come back. For every "no", immediately send out an invitation to someone on your B-list.
- It's important not to make it obvious that someone on your B list is second choice. In other words, don't send out a B-list invite a week before your party.
- Be prepared for approximately one-quarter of those invited not to show up. This way, you can safely invite more people than you actually expect.
- If you haven't seen or spoken to a person in two to three years, they shouldn't be on your list.



Leave your guests a favour

The invitation

Written invites are a great idea for an informal do

- Use your personality, but don't forget the basics like time, venue and date.
- Let your guests know what kind of attire is appropriate – is it a semi-formal gathering or a formal affair?
- Send out your invitations six to eight weeks before your event.

For more information on Events Wizard, contact Leticia Hsu at 03-7987 7188 or www.eventswizard.net