

HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTESS...

Planning a party this festive season? VIVA meets the experts who can help you make sure it will be memorable!

Sarah Feyling, managing director of Couture Events

“A good party starts with good planning. And good planning starts with questions: What kind of party do you want to throw? What type of elegant holiday event will you be hosting? A sit-down dinner, Christmas buffet cocktail party or an informal and fun get-together?”

Once the type of party has been defined you can then determine the date, time, menu and decor you want to achieve. Choose a date that works for all the people who need to be there – you might want to call those guests whose presence you consider essential before you even set the date...

Creating a Look

Remember that simplicity is key. Pick a colour scheme that will work across your home, from the tree decorations and flowers to the table runner and napkins. The colours you choose to emphasise in your Christmas decorations can evoke real feeling in your

guests, so consider your goals. You could go for icy and intense, cosy and traditional, modern and fresh or elegant and luxurious.

Hostess

As the party hostess, you set the atmosphere – if you are stressed, anxious or unprepared it can seriously spoil the mood so it's important to be prepared. You may want to consider hiring professional caterers so you can free yourself up to enjoy the party and focus on your role as a host for the evening.

It will be far easier to relax if you're feeling confident, so plan your outfit accordingly. You'll inevitably be very busy on the day, so make sure you set aside some time to get ready and have your outfit and accessories laid out and ready to go.

Remember that you set the mood – be positive. Put your biggest smile on and start spreading holiday cheer as soon as the first guest arrives. Simply take a deep breath and enjoy!” ►

