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Ask The Expert: Heather Barrie

Heather Barrie, founder of Fine Palate, shares her party planning tips.

BY [JALEAN WONG](#) (/AUTHOR/JALEAN-WONG) | DEC 01, 2011



Heather Barrie, founder of Fine Palate

What are the key ingredients for a successful party?

Three things—set-up, attitude and people. What makes a great party is the environment and set-up. That doesn't have to mean spending heaps of money, it just means making the most of the venue you have. Seemingly small touches like flowers, soft lighting (candles are easy and affordable), good music or even a color theme can make all the difference.


Next, attitude. Approach your party with fun, excitement and generosity—buy the best you can afford.

Finally, remember that it's not just about food, it's about the company. So spend every minute possible with your guests. You want to see them, and they want to see you, not the back of your head!

What can you do to make your party truly unique and memorable?

You can do something as simple as making sure everyone gets a welcome drink, preferably something boozy, upon their arrival, but bear in mind alternatives for non-drinkers. If it seems like someone's thought about it, it will make the party all the more special to your guests. Another thing to do is to look for some sort of connection to your guests, the occasion or the guest of honor.

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