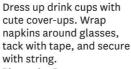




PLAYBOOK





Pineapples Beverage, \$5 for 24; modernlola.com. Green Chevron Luncheon, \$6 for 20; casparionline.com. Blue & White Dual-Sided Cocktail, \$2.49 for 16; smartyhadaparty.com





SNACK PACKS Before v

Before you head out to the music fest, divvy up your trail mix into small bags to pass and share.



Assemble your own trail mix with purchased seasoned nuts. We started with Santé nuts (\$5.49-\$5.99 for 4 oz.; santenuts.com), then added chunks of chocolate, mini marshmallows, and dried fruit for a flavorful twist on s'mores.

Short on tables and chairs for your soiree? Check out party rentals for super cheap seats.

FOLD, PACK, AND GO!

Nothing says "ready to relax" like kicking back in a sling chair with a cool drink in hand. This lightweight number is easy to toss in the back of your car so you always have the best seat at the party.

Bahia Deck Chair, \$150; quelobjet.com

ICE, ICE BABY!

"Drinks actually cool faster in a bucket of ice that has a fair slosh of water in it (not just ice)," says Georgia Frances King, editor of Kinfolk magazine.
"The secret to keeping it cold is to add a large dose of table salt to the liquid."







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the first Saturday of every summer month an open invite to a backyard barbecue. Her prep is super simple. She premixes batches of lemonade and stocks up on hot links and hot dogs. She also preseasons burgers, stacks them on waxed paper, then freezes. "The idea is to keep things that we can easily store and amp up in case we have a blowout bash," she says.



Jenny bowls over her guests by spraypainting old-school wicker chargers and bowls (line with paper plates and parchment to serve food). "It's a fun way to add a pop of color to your outdoor table and not worry about washing dishes," she says.

"I supply the grilled meat, chicken, or fish, and my friends bring some sides. I refuse to be sweating away in a hot kitchen on a nice day."

-Paul Lowe, Sweet Paul magazine









PLAYBOOK

A PLACE IN THE SUN

Lightweight umbrellas = portable shade anywhere.

Beach umbrellas, from \$89.95; sunnylife.com.au

No one wants to feel the burn at a hot summer party. Keep the rays at bay with extra sun hats, a bucket of ice stocked with sunscreen, and conversation areas with

cool dossn

seating strategically placed in the shade.

SWEET **SLIDERS**

Ice cream sandwiches? Yes, please! In bite-size? Even better! These pieces of goodness are made with pistachio ice cream and toasted coconut between crunchy vanilla wafers.

SMACKDOWN

Expert fly swatters suggest morning assaults (when flies are sluggish); a ventilated swatting pad; and a snappy, quick swat.

Shoo Fly Swatter in faux leather, \$27.95; withluvdesign.com

SUMMER'S BEST **SUPER SERVER**

Talk about get-it-and-forget-it. Cookbook author Pam Anderson (see her platterperfect recipes on page 126) serves her party meals buffet-style on an oversize board. Takeout upgrade: Give storebought chicken a flavor boost with cut citrus and herbs sprinkled on top.

Extra Large Round Pizza Board, \$136; tallulahsstore.com



'Instead of flowers as the centerpiece, fill a big wooden

-Camille Styles, camillestyles.com



What's your party personality?

Take our free quiz to match recipes with your hosting style.

BHG.com/PartyQuiz

THREE CHEERS FOR BEER

Untappd.com lets beer enthusiasts keep track of the brews they drink, save beers to try, and read reviews.

Fish Corkscrew, \$12.50; furbishstudio.com

"I like to add color and comfort to my outdoor seating with folded beach towels for cushions."

—**Stephanie Shimp,**Blue Plate Restaurant Co.,
Minneapolis

Better Homes and Gardens beach towels, \$12.88 each; walmart.com

game plan

Self-proclaimed "party girl"
Alexandra Hedin keeps energy high and kids occupied at her gatherings with a bucket of biodegradable water balloons, sidewalk chalk, and scavenger hunts. "Summer at our house is a constant rotation of friends and playdates coming over, so I like to have a variety of things on hand," she says. Find more of her party tips at alexandrahedin.com.





NIGHT LIGHTS

No need to play with fire at your party, says entertaining expert Colin Cowie. "Flameless candles are a great worry-free lighting option."

Flameless Colored Resin Pillar Candles, \$12.95 each; flipowholesale.com



Wire together a 12-inch wire wreath form and a 12-inch floral craft ring. Poke kraft paper-covered wire stems through each 4-inch clay pot and fold over the top edge, then secure at bottom of pot by twisting. Anchor the pots on the wire frame by twisting more floral wire around the wire frame. Alternately angle the pots toward and away from the center of the wreath. Fill the pots with succulents and tuck in moss along the bottom of the wreath. See it made: BHG.com/DIYCenterpiece









