

PARTY LIKE CHICSTER

It's not too late to RING IN THE SEASON! Here's **to-do list**. Make sure you *check it twice!*

1. SEND THE INVITES

Once you've decided on the night, using "e-mail is totally fine," says Maneesh Goyal, of event planner MKG Productions, "as long as you make it special." Goyal suggests enlisting a graphic designer friend ("everyone should have one!"), but in a pinch, try Paperlesspost.com, which lets you send "stationery" via e-mail. Oh, and be sure you BCC. "A host should never reveal their guest list," says Goyal. "Keep some things a surprise!"



2. SCORE THE SOUNDTRACK

"The right music is crucial," Goyal explains. "Play it so it's ambient at the beginning, and then the tempo and volume go up as the party goes on. The music either keeps the party going or kills it. So, when you're ready to kick guests out, turn on some German opera."

3. STOCK UP ON BOOZE

Bubbles are back. "We served sparkling wine, prosecco, and cava a lot in 2009," says uber-party planner Bronson Van Wyck. "This year, people are starting to serve champagne again. Yellow Label Veuve is my go-to." For the best selection and prices, have your hootch delivered by Sherry-Lehmann Wine (212-838-7500).



4. HIRE SOME HELP



This isn't the time to showcase your culinary genius. You'll be stuck in the kitchen and miss out on all the fun. When it comes to catering, Goyal is partial to Recette's "small, sexy food" (212-414-3000) and Creative Edge Parties (212-741-3000). At the very least, you'll want a bartender, preferably a sexy one from Modelbartenders.com.

5. BOOK AN ACT

The chic set loves a spectacle, no matter how silly. Goyal swears by magician Ryan Oakes (ryanoakes.com), but Santa's a guaranteed crowd-pleaser. (Crazy Daisy Clowns, 718-278-4871)

6. CLEAN HOUSE

You're inviting friends, friends of friends, and at least a few strangers into your home. Now is not the time for dustballs. If you don't have time to clean properly, NY BRITE (800-682-7483) is a solid choice.

Smile! They're here ...

