

Everyday Dining

HOW TO BE A GRACIOUS HOST

The host and guest each have very distinctive roles. As the host, it's your role to take the lead while creating a comfortable atmosphere for your guests.

At Home

- Let guests know what time to arrive and when the meal will be served.
- Ask your guests if they have any food allergies or restrictions.
- At a formal dinner, guests may be invited by written invitation, and should arrive 5 to 10 minutes before the appointed hour.
- Ensure that all guests are introduced.
- The host sees to it that the conversation runs smoothly, and steers it to neutral topics should it become heated by a controversial discussion.
- If a guest presents the host with wine, this is a gift. It is understood the host has already provided wine for the meal.
- The host should never allow a guest to drive home if they have a concern about alcohol consumption.
- Potlucks are an inexpensive way to entertain, but should be reserved for *close* friends and family.

Did You Know?

During the Tudor times when invited to dine, guests brought their own cutlery.

At a Restaurant

- As the host, it is your responsibility to take care of your guest's needs; it should be clear to the servers that you are the host.
- Select a restaurant close to your guest's home or office.
- Ask what type of food he/she prefers.
- Reconfirm with your guest the morning of the date.
- Arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the arranged time. You may wait for your guest in the lobby of the restaurant or at the table. If waiting at the table, do not touch the water, napkin, or order a drink.
- Stand as your guest is shown to the table and shake hands. Then gesture where you would like your guest to sit.
- If you arrive at the restaurant with your guest, precede your guest to the table.
- Offer your guest the opportunity to order a drink.