



**QUIVERTREE
PUBLICATIONS**

for good times

STYLISH PLANS AND PRINTABLES FOR PARTIES
EVERY MONTH OF THE YEAR

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foreword

Ever since I was a small boy I have loved anything to do with cooking, crafting and parties. I was raised by two little old ladies whose whole existence was to make me happy. And they did so by cooking and crafting with me.

The parties were plentiful and since we lived kinda far away from other kids, the guests were those little old ladies and my teddy bears. The teddy bears would be dressed up in bow ties, hats and glasses and my grandmother and great aunt would dress up in their finest. There would be finger sandwiches, small pies, scones and whatever I fancied that day. I thought of myself as a Little Lord Fauntleroy.

I still love a good party, so this book is just what I need. It's filled to the brim with fun ideas and awesome recipes. The girls have really made a winner here!

So let all us partiers unite and cheers to wishing you the best time ever!

Paul Lowe aka Sweet Paul

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introduction

A FEW GOOD WORDS

Following in the footsteps of In Good Company's in-store experience and daily blog posts, here is a book full of exactly what we love to do all day – share stylish design inspiration and decor ideas for parties.

What's more, this book combines easy-to-execute craft activities, simple step-by-step recipes and "push print" stationery; all with a keen attention to doing-it-yourself.

Developed in response to a gap in the market, FOR GOOD TIMES caters to readers by focusing on real ways to host real-life parties, right from the invitation to the take-home treat. A book that not only takes the guesswork out of planning a party, but gives you goodies to make a good start.

Wishing you a year full of good times and in good company, of course!

Julie xxx

www.ingoodcompany.co.za

PG.10, January



01. up, up and away

PG.34, february



02. little Paris kitchen

PG.144, JULY



07. hoedown throw down

PG.166, AUGUST



08. alpine camp out

PG.56, march



03. early bird breakfast

PG.78, april



04. fool the crowd

PG.186, september



09. born free baby shower

PG.208, october



10. sugar and spice spa

PG.100, may



05. sip, dip and chip cantina

PG.122, June



06. a right royal romp

PG.230, november



11. shipwrecked shindig

PG.252, december



12. the nutcracker suite



up, up and away



get ready to pack your bags and go on a party adventure around the world. with balloons at every turn, this event is well suited to a baby shower or first birthday celebration, yet designed to show off some of our favourite ideas no matter what the occasion.

january • chapter one





baby bunting and bookmark invitation

materials printable invitation • colour printer • 160gsm or thicker white paper
scissors • black fineliner pen • twine • washi tape • toothpick • c5 envelopes

directions **1** Print the printable invitation on white printer paper. Cut out the invitation and pen in the party details. **2** Print the bookmarks and cut out. **3** To make bookmark tassels: wrap 2 metres of twine loosely around the palm of one's hand, pull the looped twine off gently and tie together in the middle with a small piece of cut twine. **4** Pierce a hole in the bottom of the bookmark, thread an end of the twine of the tassel through the hole and tie a knot. **5** To make baby bunting: cut strips of washi tape 3cm in length. Fold half over the twine and stick together. With scissors, cut a swallowtail to finish off the ends. Repeat four more times, spacing the washi tape flag 1cm apart. **6** Tie a knot at one end, and thread the other end through a hole pierced through the hot air balloon basket motif on the invitation. Tie a knot at the end on the underside of the card. **7** Place the invitation and bookmark in an envelope, seal and address accordingly.



party this way sign

Directing your guests to the party area is easily done with a printable party door sign, and especially so when placed alongside the compulsory bunch of balloons – or in this case a gigantic one.

materials printable door sign • washi tape • prestik • ribbon
giant number helium balloon

directions **1** Print the printable party sign either on a standard page or larger for a bigger impact. Likewise, multiple copies can be made to highlight various points towards the party area. **2** Fasten the sign to the door with washi tape and/or prestik. Both are good suggestions as neither are likely to leave any residue when taken down.

good idea Frame the printable party door sign and then either fasten to a door or gate, hang on the wall or lean against a pot or tree.



eat on and play on

Printable patterned paper printed large scale and made into a paper table runner or placemats transforms a plain place setting into something pretty and playful. Place a cup of crayons on the tabletop for your little guests to get busy.



globetrotting

Fill your party table centre with a collection of objects that suit the theme. Travelling around the world (or your own home for that matter) will likely furnish treasures like globes, landmarks, cars and toys.



rainbow row

Fuss-free flower arrangements can be created by arranging cut flowers in glass vases or bottles in neat rows down the centre of the table. Keep the same colour and type of flower in each vessel for a coordinated look.



printable places

With the simple addition of printable place cards, your guests will not only know where to sit but also by writing on the front and back of the card, everyone will covertly know who is seated alongside and next to them.



balloon bouquet

materials white crysanthemums (mums) • tall glass vase • cool water • food colouring
sharp knife • shears or floral clippers • giant cloud balloon • helium • twine • round
basket • clear plastic • stapler • oasis • scissors • masking tape

dye the flowers Fill the vase with cool water. Add drops of food colouring to the water until you reach your desired shade. Use approximately 25 drops per half cup of water and stir to get a rich, vibrant shade. Cut fresh white mum stems at 45-degree angles, 3 to 5cm up from the bottoms, to encourage maximum water absorption. Place the flower stems in the vase and allow the blooms to stand overnight or until their petals are filled with colour. Stand for up to 24 hours to achieve varying degrees of colour intensity.

make the basket Cut out a square of plastic to line your basket, push down into the basket centre and trim the edges. Staple the plastic to your basket to hold in place. Fit a cube of oasis in the centre of your basket and fill with water. Cut the stems of your flowers slightly shorter than the basket height and, in tight bunches, push the stems into the oasis in rows of two or three in order of the rainbow (ROYGBIV).

make the balloon Fill your giant balloon with helium and tie a knot at the end. Cut two pieces of twine, 2 metres each in length. Tie the pieces together in a knot in the centre of the two lengths. Fasten this knot to the bottom of the basket with masking tape. Pull one length of twine up, one down, one to the left and one to the right. Gather the four ends together a metre above the flower arrangements and tie a knot. Then tie the twine to the helium balloon and trim the ends.



diy dessert – table basics

background Behind your dessert table is often the most overlooked element and yet it can totally make or break the table, especially in the photos. Possibly you are lucky and the party area already has pretty wallpaper or perfectly placed pictures. If not, opt for a blank wall and decorate with:

A printed custom canvas/poster • a wall of ribbon • paper daisies/rosettes • bunting
removable wall stickers

overhead The most exciting part of a dessert table is often the decorations that “frame” the table from above. First and foremost, assess whether your venue allows for the fastening of items from above. If successful, consider options like Chinese paper lanterns, tissue paper pom poms and paper daisies.

table A weathered wooden or colourful trestle table can be left bare. Or opt for a floor-length tablecloth and patterned runners. Do measure your table beforehand so as to ensure a good fit; and importantly, assist with spacing out the items that will sit on the table.

variations of height Whilst an obvious tip, be sure that your tall items are placed at the back of your table and the smallest ones at the front. Height is created by covering polystyrene cubes in wrapping paper. For easy options, look out for pre-covered gift boxes, nesting suitcases and overturned wooden crates.

decorations Even though the main focus of the table will be the sweets and treats, it is a good idea to incorporate other decorative elements to set off your sweet things and this is a good way to fill up the table without the often more costly option of food items. Think flowers and decorative ornaments – in fact an additional table centrepiece or two on either side of the table makes a good choice. Avoid candles, as their fragrance will interfere with the food.



cake More often than not, a cake on a cake stand is placed in the centre and sufficiently tiered to be the highlight of the table. If your cake is “too short”, elevate your cake stand on top of a covered box. Asymmetrical placing of the cake to one side is also pleasing to the eye, especially for an overall informal look.

vessels Glass jars, metal buckets, overturned hats, ceramic- or glass-footed compotes and bowls are needed to hold the sweet treats, particularly loose candy. Opt for items in clear glass or white; thereby forming a neutral base to show off the sweets and start a collection that can be used for future tables.

platters White ceramic platters or plates will display stand-alone treats like cupcakes and cookies. For a crafty idea use mirrors or glass frames and fasten small knobs at each corner for feet. These not only elevate the goodies off the table but allow for one to cut down on the surface area needed to be filled with treats.

baked goodies Favourites to include are iced cupcakes, cake pops, iced cookies, macarons and whoopie pies.

no-bake goodies Jellies and mousses are best made and displayed in small glass jars or shooter glasses, complete with teaspoons tied on with twine. Pretzels dipped in chocolate, candy floss and flavoured popcorn are easy-to-add treats.

candy sweets Marshmallows, lollipops, liquorice, dragée almonds, chocolate bars, mints, gumballs. Sweets are probably the most costly element of the table, as even a small jar requires a lot of candy. Therefore, consider using small-footed glass jars with pretty lids and decorate the tops with ribbon bows.

labels The little details make all the difference, therefore be sure to add little labels or place cards naming the goods on offer. Decorate with the printable party circle tags and food flags fastened onto toothpicks or skewers.

takeaway containers Always have little plates, treat bags or boxes alongside so that your guests can fill up on the goodies and have the option to take some home.

fill it up If your table is particularly large and you need to fill in some gaps, consider incorporating your drinks as part of the table; similarly one can add other party favours to the other end of the table.



menu

FLAVOURED MILK
ICED COOKIES
PIZZA PINWHEELS
COLOURFUL CRUDITÉS
RAINBOW CAKE



flavoured milk

250ml milk • 2 tablespoons white sugar
3 tablespoons chocolate or strawberry syrup

1 Pour the milk into a glass. Add the sugar and stir well. **2** Add the chocolate or strawberry syrup. **3** Serve immediately. Any flavoured milk not consumed immediately should be refrigerated to prevent bacterial growth.

iced cookies

3 cups sifted all-purpose flour • 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt • 1 cup white sugar • 1 cup butter • 1 egg, lightly beaten
3 tablespoons cream • 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 Preheat oven to 200°C. **2** Sift together all-purpose flour, baking powder, sugar and salt. **3** Cut in the butter and blend with pastry blender until mixture is crumbly. Stir in lightly beaten egg, vanilla and cream. Blend well. Chill dough for one hour for easy rolling. **4** On a floured surface, roll out dough to ¼ inch thickness. Cut out hot air balloons using the template or a cookie cutter. **5** Place on a baking sheet and bake for 6-8 minutes until lightly brown. Allow to cool completely before icing.

MAKES 40

BASIC ROYAL ICING

4 egg whites • 900g icing sugar • Food colouring – colours according to your theme

1 Whisk egg whites until soft peak stage, about 5 minutes. Add the icing sugar and continue whisking to form a thick smooth paste the consistency of toothpaste. **2** To ice the biscuits, divide the royal icing into 4 equal amounts in smaller containers. Add your choice of colour to the icing, add only a few drops at a time. **3** Using a piping bag fitted with a small plain nozzle, pipe the outline of each biscuit. Fill in the colours with the remaining icing and use a small spatula to spread the icing evenly. **4** Allow to dry completely, overnight is best, before moving or packaging.

GOOD IDEA

Pop the iced biscuits back in the oven, 150°C for 10 minutes to harden the icing.

pizza pinwheels

375g roll puff pastry, defrosted • 4-6 tablespoons olive tapenade
or plain tomato pasta sauce • 10 slices salami, wafer thin • 10 slices
prosciutto • 100g mature Cheddar, grated • 1 egg, beaten

1 Preheat oven to 200°C. **2** Unroll pastry onto a lightly floured surface and gently roll with a rolling pin to even it out. **3** Spread the pastry with the tapenade or pasta sauce, arrange the salami and prosciutto over the pastry and sprinkle with the cheese. **4** Starting at the short end, roll the pastry into a log as tightly as possible, wrap in cling film and chill in the freezer for 10 minutes (no longer or it will crack when slicing). **5** Remove cling film and slice into rounds about 1cm in diameter. If preparing ahead, lay out in a single layer on a baking tray, cover and freeze. **6** To cook, brush lightly with beaten egg and bake for 12-15 minutes until puffed and golden brown. If cooking from frozen allow 15-20 minutes. **7** Leave to stand for 5 minutes before serving. **8** Serve with extra paper serviettes.

MAKES APPROX 12

colourful crudités

Veggies and fruit with dippers make great food for toddlers. Bread sticks and toasted pita triangles can also be included and are great for older kids who might not only want veggies and fruit, no matter how pretty and colourful.

CRUDITÉS SELECTION

mini carrots or carrot batons • mini cucumbers/ Israeli cucumbers • celery fingers
cherry tomatoes • mini corn • sugar snap peas • grapes • strawberries

KIDDIES HUMMUS

410g chickpeas, drained • juice of 1 lemon • 2 tablespoons olive oil
1 clove garlic, crushed • 2 tablespoons boiling water
pinch of sea salt or Herbamare

1 Whiz the chickpeas in a food processor with the lemon juice and garlic; drizzle the olive oil through the feeder tube. **2** Scrape down the sides and add the boiling water, the consistency should be fairly loose to dip veggies in but not too sloppy. **3** Taste and adjust seasoning. **4** Will keep for 2-3 days in the fridge and can be prepared ahead.

MAKES 1 CUP



rainbow cake

VANILLA SPONGE CAKE

2 boxes vanilla cake mix • 2 cups water • 1 cup sunflower oil • 6 eggs
gel or liquid food colours (red, yellow, green and blue)

BUTTERCREAM ICING

1 cup butter, softened • 4 cups icing sugar • 2 teaspoons vanilla essence
3-4 tablespoons milk

1 Heat oven to 180°C. Spray three 20cm round cake pans with cooking spray.
2 In a large bowl, beat cake mix, water, oil and eggs with electric mixer on low speed for 30 seconds, then on medium speed for 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Divide batter evenly among six small bowls, about 1 cup in each.
3 Using food colours, tint batter in one bowl blue, one bowl red, one bowl green, one bowl yellow, one bowl orange (using red and yellow) and one bowl purple (using blue and red). **4** Refrigerate three colours of batter until ready to bake. Pour remaining colours of batter into cake pans. **5** Bake for 18-20 minutes or until cake springs back when touched lightly in the centre and begins to pull away from side of pan. Cool for 10 minutes. Remove from pans to cooling racks; cool completely. **6** Wash cake pans. Bake and cool remaining three cake layers as directed. **7** For the icing, in a large bowl, cream butter with electric mixer. Add vanilla. Gradually add sugar, 1 cup at a time, beating well on medium speed. Scrape sides and bottom of bowl often. When all sugar has been mixed in, icing will appear dry. Add milk and beat at medium speed until light and fluffy. Keep bowl covered with a damp cloth until ready to use. For best results, keep icing bowl in refrigerator when not in use. Refrigerated in an airtight container, this icing can be stored for 2 weeks. Rewhip before using. For thin (spreading) consistency icing, add 2 tablespoons water or milk. **8** Trim rounded tops off cakes to level, if needed. On a serving plate, place purple cake layer. Spread with icing to within 1cm of edge. Repeat with blue, green, yellow, orange and red layers. Spread a light coat of icing on top and side of cake to seal in crumbs, then ice with remaining icing.

GOOD IDEA

Get the look with less effort by having fewer cake layers and use coloured icing in between.



book plates

By the time of your child's baby shower or first birthday, you may have already received all the practical gifts and have a large toy collection. Consider hosting a party all about books, encouraging guests to help build your child's library. As part of the invitation or at the gift table you can include these book plates.

materials printable book plates • black fineliner pen • tape • scissors

directions **1** Print and cut out the printable book plates. **2** At the party gift table, set up a little book signing station with a pile of book plates, pens and double sided tape. **3** As guests arrive they can fill in a book plate for their book gift and attach it to the present.

variation Ask your guests to write a message in your child's favourite book for your own original take on a blank guest book.

badges of honour

Make quirky paper button badges for everyone. Not only does it make all your guests feel special but it's useful as an icebreaker for guests who may not have met before.



toybox

No need to stress about organised games for babies and toddlers. Children at this young age will be more than keen to play with your child's current toy collection. Clear a large space, place a play mat or blanket on the floor and the toy box in the centre. Playtime sorted.

pass the parcel

A classic party game loved by both young and old. Wrap a chosen gift item (gender neutral and age appropriate) in wrapping or tissue paper. Wrap the gift countless times, possibly alternating colours, and stick a sweet in between each one too. Seat all the players in a circle and have them pass the parcel to one another as the music plays. When the music stops, the person holding the gift gets to open a layer of the paper. The person to open the last layer wins the gift inside. Yay!





balloon wishes

Ask guests to write their well wishes on note cards. Tie these to balloons and release them into the sky!

balloon booth

Fill a giant balloon with helium and decorate with pom poms, string, ribbons and the printable party flag. Tie to a large basket and before you know it your little guests will jump in to play – the perfect photo opportunity!

story time

Whilst speeches are not a prerequisite for most parties, it is always a good idea to say a few words (mostly likely before you cut the cake). You may wish to share a sweet story or read an excerpt from their favourite book, and toasting with champagne is always a good idea!

party hats

Using pretty patterned paper and printable party circle tags, make little custom party hats for all the little guests.

how old am I?

Peg onto string photos of the guest of honour through the years (or months in the case of a first birthday). Let guests have a go at guessing the age, by numbering each one. Have pens and slips of paper alongside.

wonderball

Very much like the game pass the parcel with layers and layers of paper – in this case coloured crêpe paper streamers are wrapped into a ball shape with tiny trinkets hidden in between each layer.



treat tags

Thank you luggage tags preprinted with THANK YOU can easily transform the simplest party favour to a thoughtful token of appreciation. For this reason, all of our printable parties include tags and work well in general for gift tags as well.

materials printable party luggage thank you tags • scissors • hole punch • twine
treat boxes • treats/toys

directions **1** Print the printable party gift tags and cut out the tags. **2** Pen in your personal message. **3** Punch a hole at the top of each tag and thread through twine by making a loop, then threading the loop through the hole and passing both ends back through the loop. **4** Fill treat boxes with your party favour of choice and tie with twine. Glue or tape the tags to the box.

variation Print the printable party circle tags and cut/punch out the circles. Punch a hole at the top of each one and thread through twine by making a loop, then threading the loop through the hole and passing both ends back through the loop. Fill small cellophane bags, sweet paper packets or small gift boxes with treats and toys. Tie the tag to the container with ribbon or twine.





the little paris kitchen



send a letter inviting your girlfriends around for an afternoon of baking and crafting the day before valentine's day. Teach the art of making the French classics and enjoy a taste or two in your corner café. But be sure to leave a few to parcel up for each of your sweet valentines.

february • chapter two





par avion invitation

materials printable invitation • colour printer • 160gsm or thicker white paper scissors
black fineliner pen • printable envelope • bone folder/ruler • glue stick

directions **1** Print the printable invitation on white printer paper, cut out the invitation and pen in the party details. **2** Print the printable envelope, cut out the envelope and score the edges with a bone folder/ruler. Stick the edges closed with paper glue. **3** Place the invitation in the envelope, seal and address accordingly.



chalkboard tray sign

materials wicker/wooden tray • fine sand paper • chalkboard paint • paint brush
masking tape • chalk

directions **1** Clean tray thoroughly, dry and ensure it's free from loose material. Lightly rub down the surface with fine sand paper. **2** Tape edges of the tray with masking tape. **3** Stir the paint well before use. **4** Apply the chalkboard paint to the flat part of the tray. **5** Leave to dry completely between coats (2 to 3). **6** Leave to dry completely for 4 hours before you write on it.

good idea Tape the printable door sign to chalkboard tray sign welcoming your guests to the party, and below, chalk in the menu or activities planned for the party.

another good idea Use your chalkboard tray as a cheeseboard and chalk in the names of the spread: create a tri-colour flag of food by serving thick stripes of red grapes, white Brie/Camembert cheese and blue roquefort cheese.



corner café

To create a typical Parisian café look, set up little square tables in neat rows and mix and match the chairs. Scour your cupboards (your granny's too) for French vintage linen and tableware. As the look is always in vogue, you are sure to be successful in homeware and decor shops too.



tins of tea roses

Vintage tea and coffee tins can be turned into vases by placing a glass jar inside the tin. Fill the jar with tight bunches of red roses trimmed so as to just have their heads popping over the rim of the tin. A similar look can be created using hatboxes and fastening the lid to the one side and decorating with ribbon and bows.



plat du jour

Create a menu card and place setting in one. Print out the printable party placemat, set the table as directed and write in the meal of the day in the centre of the plate on the decorative paper placemat.



by candlelight

Create a romantic mood with candlelight – use little tea lights in glass votives with fire safety in mind; use LED tea lights placed inside footed café glasses complete with decorative paper lampshades to make miniature table lamps.



menu

CHOCOLAT CHAUD
CROQUE MONSIEUR
PETITE DU JOUR QUICHES
CHEAT'S MACARONS
COCKTAIL CROISSANTS
OMBRÉ MERINGUES
OMBRÉ MERINGUE CAKE

chocolat chaud

4 wooden spoons • 100g dark chocolate, melted

1 Pour the melted chocolate into greased silicone moulds or ice cube trays. **2** Allow to cool slightly and insert a wooden spoon in the centre of each chocolate block. **3** Allow to cool completely before turning out. **4** To serve, place a spoon in each cup and fill with warm (not boiling) milk. Top with whipped cream and a dusting of cocoa powder.



croque monsieur

A croque monsieur is a pan-fried ham and cheese sandwich. It originated in French cafés and bars as a quick snack. Typically Emmental or Gruyère cheese is used and it is worth sticking to either of these cheeses, don't be tempted to substitute with Cheddar.

8 slices white bread • butter for spreading • 8 slices ham • 8 slices Gruyère or Emmental cheese • 2 eggs, beaten • 30g butter • 15ml oil

1 Spread the bread with softened butter and make 4 sandwiches with the ham and the cheese. Press them firmly together. **2** Dip the sandwiches into the beaten egg mixture, making sure each side is well coated. **3** Heat the butter and oil together in a heavy-bottomed frying pan; when it is hot, fry the sandwiches for 5-8 minutes until golden brown, turning once. **4** Cut into shapes if desired and serve immediately.

SERVES 4



petite du jour quiches

A great way to make quiches without the hassle of using pastry is to use bread instead.

4 slices bread, white or brown • 2 eggs, beaten • 500ml/2 cups cream
1 cup of your selected filling: chopped ham, mushroom and grated cheese

1 Preheat oven to 180°C, and grease ramekins or mini flan dishes. **2** Using a rolling pin, roll the bread to flatten it. **3** Whisk the eggs with the cream and add your filling. **4** Pour the filling over the bread, sprinkle with extra cheese and place flan dishes on a baking tray. **5** Bake for 20 minutes until puffed and golden brown. **6** Serve immediately.

MAKES 4



cheat's macarons

Macarons are notoriously difficult to master, but this cheat's version is easy enough for young bakers to make! For nut allergies, omit the almond meal.

1 vanilla cake mix • 4 tablespoons ground almonds/almond meal • 200g butter cream icing or spreadable frosting • 4 drops rose water • icing sugar to dust

1 On the reverse side of a piece of baking paper, draw circles approximately 4cm in diameter. **2** Turn the paper over and grease the plain side. **3** Preheat oven to 180°C. **4** Make the vanilla cake according to instructions and stir the 4 tablespoons of ground almonds into the batter. **5** Using a teaspoon, place spoonfuls of cake batter onto the paper using the circles as a guide. **6** Bake for 10-15 minutes until golden brown. **7** Remove from oven and allow to cool completely before icing. **8** Stir the rose water into the icing; add a drop of pink food colouring if desired. Fit a piping bag with a star shaped nozzle and pipe icing onto one half of the macaron, sandwich with another and dust with icing sugar. **9** Will keep for 2 days in an airtight container.



cocktail croissants

1 packet puff pastry • 100g chocolate disks

1 Preheat oven to 200°C **2** Roll out pastry and cut into long triangles. **3** Place a few chocolate disks on the pastry and roll up, starting at the widest point. **4** Place croissants on a greased baking tray and bake for 15-20 minutes until puffed and golden. **5** Serve immediately.

MAKES 20



ombré meringues

6 large egg whites, at room temperature • 2 cups castor sugar
pink gel food colouring

1 Preheat oven to 150°C. **2** In a clean, dry bowl, whisk the egg whites until soft peak stage, approx 2-3 minutes. **3** With the beater running, very slowly add the castor sugar 2 tablespoons at a time. Continue beating and adding sugar until the mixture is firm and glossy, approx 8-10 minutes. Be careful not to over-whisk when the mixture has reached the glossy stage. **4** Line a baking sheet with baking paper and spray with non-stick spray. Divide the meringue mixture into 4 equal size containers. **5** Set one container aside for the white mixture, in the remaining 3 containers add the food colouring. To the first container add 2 drops, to the second 3-4 drops and the last container 6-8 drops. **6** Using a piping bag fitted with a plain nozzle, pipe dots onto the baking paper starting with the white mixture and ending with the darkest colour. **7** Bake in preheated oven for 15-20 minutes. **8** Switch off oven and allow to cool. **9** Will keep in an airtight container for 2 weeks.

MAKES 20

ombré meringue cake

3 cakes, flavour of your choice, baked in 4 inch, 6 inch and 8 inch tins
cake boards the exact size of the cakes, 4 inch, 6 inch, 8 inch

900g butter icing or spreadable frosting • 8 straws or bamboo skewers
ombré meringues • toothpicks

TO ASSEMBLE THE CAKE

1 Spread a little icing onto the 8 inch board and place the cake on the board. Ice the sides and top of each cake. Repeat with each cake and set aside. **2** Start with the largest cake (8 inch) and cut 4 straws or skewers to the precise height of the cake. Poke these into the centre of the cake, a few centimetres apart, to form a square. They should just reach the top of the cake and will hold up the second tier. Place the second cake on the centre of the larger cake and repeat with straws or bamboo skewers and finally place the smallest cake on top. **3** To decorate the cake with the ombre meringues, push toothpicks about 1/2-3/4 of the way into the cake and secure meringues on the toothpicks, starting with the lightest colour and progressing to the darkest or vice versa.



paper chef hat

materials printable patterned paper • party circle tags • two A4 white paper sheets
scissors • glue

directions **1** Print the printable patterned paper. Cut into 2 headbands measuring 5cm x 30cm each and stick together to make one long band. **2** Concertina-fold the white paper sheets along the length of the page and stick the short side of the sheets to the headband. **3** Place the headband around the guest's head and adjust accordingly to fit, then stick together down the long side. **4** Punch out and stick a printable party circle tag to the front for decoration.

tea towel apron

materials tea towel 50cm x 70cm • scissors • sewing machine • 1m wide ribbon

directions **1** Fold a tea towel in half along the width; cut the tea towel in half along this line. **2** Cut a pocket from the one piece, measuring 12cm x 15cm. **3** Sew this pocket onto the front of the other half of the tea towel. **4** Sew the ribbon using gathering stitch to the top of the tea towel to gather the top of the towel and make apron ties.



gadget guess

materials tray • 12 unusual kitchen utensils • tea towel • pencil or pen for each guest
note card for each guest

directions Collect a bunch of kitchen utensils; be sure to include a couple of utensils that are less common. Place the utensils on a tray and for a minute have everyone look at the tray. Cover the tray with a tea towel and guests must then list as many of the utensils as possible. The guest with the most correct items wins a prize.

variation Instead of kitchen utensils, buy all different kinds of exotic fruit, vegetables and ingredients. Guests must then see how many of the goodies they know by name.

another fun variation Place the goodies in a bag; guests are blindfolded one at a time and must try to name the item selected by touch (or smell alone).

clothes peg game

materials clothes pegs – 3 for each guest

directions The aim of the game is to acquire as many clothes pegs as possible by not committing the “off limits” action and by catching others in the act. Each guest is handed three pegs when they arrive. After everyone arrives, briefly explain what the pegs are for. Usually there is a certain word, such as “party” or “Paris”, or action, such as “pointing or crossing the legs or ankles” that is off limits. If a guest catches another guest doing something off limits, then they take that person’s peg. If the person has more than one peg (from catching another person(s)), then all of the pegs are handed over. Later on, each guest is asked how many pegs they have. The guest with the most pegs is the winner.



Eiffel Tower treat bags

Print the printable Eiffel tower bag toppers, cut out along the solid lines and fold along the dotted lines. Fill clear cellophane bags with treats, wrap the Eiffel towers around the bag and fasten closed with ribbon bows.



coco chanel bracelets

Thread fake pearl beads onto clear fishing line gut, cut into 20cm lengths. Tie loose ends together with a double knot and at the knot end tie a wide black ribbon bow. One could also make the threads longer for coordinating necklaces. Print and cut out the printable Paris shop fronts and stick to a treat box filled with Parisian-themed sweets and treats.



10 things i love about you

Print and cut out the printable envelope and note cards on white printer paper (one set of 1 to 10 note cards per guest). At the party, guests must think of someone they love to be the recipient of the love letter and write down one thing on each card that they love about that person. The note cards are placed inside the envelope and tied with ribbon.



sweet suitcases

Line a cardboard suitcase or box with a cotton napkin and fill with leftover sweets and treats. Add a personalised printable luggage tag so everyone claims the right baggage before they head for home.



early bird breakfast



Rise and shine with a breakfast spread that is definitely not one for the birds. From butternut scones to hummingbird cake, you and your guests will be invigorated to play some “egg” lawn games.

march • chapter three





crack me open invitation

materials coloured paint • paint brush • white paint/tippex • white paper scissors • pin • toothpick • twine • blown-out egg • natural raffia • small box

directions **1** Paint blown-out eggs in brightly-coloured paint and decorate with white paint by drawing on polka dots or flowers. **2** Print the party details on a thin strip of paper (2cm x 20cm). Roll the paper into a tight tube and insert through the larger hole in the eggshell. **3** Print the “Crack Me Open” tags, cut out and pierce a small hole at the top with a pin and toothpick. Thread through twine and tie the tag around the painted egg. **4** Paint a small box with brightly-coloured paint and fill with natural raffia. Place the egg inside and the box lid on top. Tie the box closed with twine.

blowing out eggs

materials raw regular-sized eggs • pin • small nail • toothpick • small straw wide bowl • glass of water

directions **1** Poke a hole at the top and bottom of an egg using a pin. Make the hole you are going to blow through a little larger using a nail. Then make the end hole slightly larger, about twice the size of the first hole, as this is where the egg contents will flow out. **2** Reach through the larger hole with a toothpick to pierce the yolk and break up the membranes that keep it whole. Gently push the toothpick in and out of the hole repeatedly. **3** Set up the bowl to catch the insides of the egg. Hold the egg right above this bowl and hold up the thin straw to the small hole. Blow air through the straw and into the egg, letting the insides flow out from the larger hole. Do this until the egg is empty. **4** Take a glass of water and pour it over the eggshell to rinse it out. Then blow out the water and any remaining egg. Shake gently and repeat until the egg is completely clean. **5** Dry the intact eggshells by putting all eggshells in the microwave on high for 15-30 seconds or bake them in a 150°C oven for 10 minutes. Alternatively, you can let them drain (larger hole facing downwards) for 2-3 days.



birds on a wire

materials wooden pegs • paint • paint brush • wide ribbon – to tie the width of your table and fasten at the sides on poles • twine • printable bird images • scissors
suggested flowers (real or fake, cut or potted with roots intact): pansies, tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, bellis, anemones, ranunculus, snowdrops

directions **1** Paint the wooden pegs. **2** Print and cut out the bird motifs. **3** Tie ribbon over the width of your table a metre above the table height. **4** Tie the flowers upside down on the ribbon at regular intervals. **5** Peg the printable bird motifs along the length of the ribbon.



treetop

Paint an old door/trestle table top with a distressed look and set on top of large plastic crates. For chairs, use old tree stumps.



terrariums

Fill bird nests (real or fake) with small decorative eggs and feather or ceramic birds. Add a glass bell jar overhead to create a terrarium. As an alternative to ceramic or feather bird ornaments, use the printable party bird motifs glued onto the inside of the bell jar.



bird houses

Paint wooden bird houses found at nursery or garden centres using bright colours and add decorative flowers, butterflies and birds with paint or use stickers. The printable party motifs can also be decoupaged.



potted plants

Decorate potted plants with printable bird motifs pegged onto the rims. These make for great party favours afterwards.



menu

BUTTERNUT SAVOURY SCONES

BIRD MUESLI NESTS

CHOCOLATE AND RICOTTA PANCAKES

MINI POPPY SEED AND CARROT LOAVES

SEEDED HUMMINGBIRD CAKES

butternut savoury scones

A quick and easy way to “upgrade” your favourite pre-mix; play around with different variations such as sundried tomato and olives, bacon, sage and blue cheese; all would be delicious for a breakfast or bunch.

½ packet savoury scone mix

150g roasted butternut, seasoned with salt and freshly ground pepper

1 teaspoon mixed dried herbs • 100g feta cheese, crumbled.

1 Grease ceramic muffin cups or use disposable muffin holders. **2** Preheat oven to 180°C. **3** Mix savoury scone mixture according to instructions on the packet. **4** Stir in the remaining ingredients and spoon into muffin cups or holders. **5** Bake in preheated oven for 20-25 minutes or until golden, well risen and a skewer inserted comes out clean. **6** Serve immediately.

MAKES 6



bird muesli nests

125g butter • 3 tablespoons golden syrup, honey or agave syrup
1 orange, zest and juice • 500g muesli of your choice
mascarpone • seasonal fruit

1 Preheat oven to 180°C. **2** Grease silicone muffin holders or use disposable muffin cups. **3** Melt the butter with the syrup, remove from heat and stir in the orange zest and juice. **4** Stir the liquid into the muesli and press into the muffin cups using the back of a tablespoon to create a cup with an indentation in the middle. **5** Bake for 30-35 minutes, remove from oven and allow to cool completely before removing from muffin tin. **6** Baskets will keep for 2 days in an airtight container. **7** Serve with mascarpone and seasonal fruit.

MAKES 12



chocolate and ricotta pancakes

2 cups self-raising flour • ¼ cup cocoa • ¼ cup castor sugar
150g smooth ricotta or cream cheese • 1½ cups milk
2 eggs • icing sugar for dusting • fresh fruit • syrup

1 Sift the flour and cocoa together in a bowl. **2** Whisk in the ricotta cheese, milk and eggs to make a smooth batter. Do not over-mix or the mixture will become tough. **3** Heat a non-stick pan on the stove, brush with a little oil and fry tablespoons of the batter, 2-3 at a time, allowing space for spreading. **4** Remove and, using an egg shape cookie cutter, cut out "eggs". **5** Dust with icing sugar. **6** Serve with fresh fruit and syrup.

MAKES 20



mini poppy seed and carrot loaves

1 cup self-raising flour • ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon • pinch of salt
¼ cup oil • 2 large eggs, beaten
¾ cup light brown sugar • ⅓ cup plain yoghurt
1 cup finely grated carrot (approx 2 large carrots)
2 tablespoons poppy seeds

VANILLA BEAN SYRUP

4 whole vanilla pods • 1 cup white sugar
1 cup water • 1 carrot, cut into strips with a potato peeler

1 Preheat oven to 180°C and grease and line 4 mini loaf tins or 1 large loaf tin. **2** Sift dry ingredients into a bowl. **3** In a separate bowl whisk the oil, eggs, brown sugar and yoghurt until smooth. **4** Gently stir in the dry ingredients, carrots and poppy seeds. Do not beat. **5** Pour batter into the loaf tins and bake until a skewer comes out clean when inserted in the middle of the cake, approx 40-45 minutes for the large loaf tin and 25-30 minutes for the smaller tins. **6** While the cakes are baking, make the syrup by bringing all the syrup ingredients to the boil and simmer for 20 minutes until thickened and syrupy. Add the carrot strips. Set aside to cool. **7** Remove cakes from the oven and allow to cool on a rack before turning out. **8** To serve, decorate with carrot strips and drizzle with vanilla bean syrup.

MAKES 4 MINI LOAVES OR 1 LARGE LOAF



seeded hummingbird cakes

A deliciously moist, and almost healthy, cake with pineapple, banana and toasted coconut!

440g can crushed pineapple in syrup • 1 cup wholewheat flour
½ cup self-raising flour • ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground ginger • 1 cup light brown sugar
½ cup desiccated coconut, toasted • 1 cup mashed banana
2 eggs, beaten • ¾ cup oil

CREAM CHEESE ICING

100g butter, at room temperature • 150g cream cheese, softened
1 ½ cups (240g) icing sugar, sifted

chocolate-dipped pretzel “twigs” • shaved coconut, toasted

1 Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease a Bundt tin. **2** Drain the pineapple and reserve 60ml of the syrup; set aside. **3** Sift the dry ingredients into a bowl, add the sugar, stir and using a wooden spoon, stir in the crushed pineapple, reserved syrup, coconut, banana, egg and oil. Pour into the prepared tin. **4** Bake the cake for 40-50 minutes until a skewer inserted comes out clean. Stand cake in tin to cool before turning out onto a wire rack. **5** To make the icing: beat the butter and cream cheese together until light and fluffy, gradually add the icing sugar. **6** Spread cream cheese icing on the top of the cake and decorate with pretzel twigs and shaved coconut.



big bird masks

Print and cut out the bird mask printables. Roll a piece of yellow paper into a cone shape and tape closed. Tape the cone to the bird face. Stick a straw filled with feathers to the edge of the mask.



zwänzgerle

Zwänzgerle is an old Swiss tradition meant as a way for children to make a little bit of pocket money. Guests challenge one another by seeing if they can break each other's painted eggs with a coin. They throw their coin at an egg from a "fair" distance. If they miss and the egg stays intact, the owner of the egg wins the coin. If they succeed, they keep the coin and the egg.



egg roll

Each player needs a decorated hardboiled egg and a long stick or bat. Line up the eggs in a row and have each player stand by their egg. On "Go!" players start rolling their eggs toward the finish line. The first one to reach it is the winner. This is a highlight of the annual Easter festivities held on the White House lawn in the United States of America.



chocolate dipped coffee spoons

materials 18 melamine tablespoons for gifting • 1 cup milk chocolate chips
1 large baking tray • wax paper to fit baking tray • heat-proof measuring cup
1 teaspoon butter (optional) • speckled chocolate eggs • ribbon • cellophane

MAKES 18 SPOONS

directions **1** Cover baking trays with wax paper. **2** Place the cup of chocolate chips in a heat-proof measuring cup. Microwave chocolate chips at 50% power for 1 minute. Remove cup and stir. Continue microwaving at 50% power, stirring every 30 seconds, until chocolate is melted and smooth. Do not over-heat chocolate. To thin chocolate, add butter and stir gently. **3** Dip plastic spoons in melted chocolate to cover the bowl of the spoon. Remove excess chocolate by tapping tip gently against the inside of the measuring cup. **4** Push speckled chocolate eggs into melted chocolate. **5** Cool spoons thoroughly before wrapping individually with cellophane and ribbon.

good ideas If the chocolate in the cup thickens, return to the microwave for 30 seconds at 50% power, stir gently. Use dark chocolate for grown-up favours for a more sophisticated taste and appeal. Use clear cellophane to wrap so that the chocolate can be seen. Replace melamine spoons with plastic or wooden tablespoons for inexpensive favours.



fool the crowd



Abracadabra! No need for professionals (though a surprise magician would be cool), it is time to turn the tables into a stage set for a one night only magic show. Add in a few top hats, tricks and treats and your guests will be filled with amazement!

april • chapter four





show ticket invitation

materials printable invitation • printable tickets • colour printer • 160gsm or thicker white paper • scissors • black fineliner pen • twine • hole punch

directions **1** Print the printable invitation on white printer paper. Cut out the invitation and pen in the party details. **2** Cut out a semicircle in each of the corners of the invitation so as to look like a giant ticket stub. **3** Print and cut out the printable ticket stubs. Punch a hole into the side of each stub. **4** Place the invitation in the patterned paper bag. **5** Wrap the twine around the packet, as one would a gift, and tie the ticket stub like a gift tag to the parcel.



backstage

materials printable backstage printable • colour printer • 160gsm or thicker white paper • scissors • cardboard • glitter • glue stick • prestik

directions **1** Print the printable backstage sign. Stick to the entrance door with prestik. **2** Cut out star shapes from cardboard. **3** Cover with glue and sprinkle glitter on top. Leave to dry. Tap to remove all excess glitter. **4** Stick alongside the stage door sign.



top hat

materials printable party arrows • sticky tape • red or white gerberas • polystyrene or plastic hat • black paint • paint brush • black glitter • heart Petersham ribbon bamboo skewers • scissors

directions **1** Print and cut out the printable party arrows. Stick the arrows onto the bamboo skewers with tape. **2** Paint a polystyrene hat with black paint. When the paint is still wet, sprinkle glitter on the hat. **3** When the paint is completely dry, tape the heart ribbon around the bottom rim of the hat. **4** Using scissors, punch holes into the top of the hat and insert cut gerbera flowers into the top of the hat. Push the arrows through the hat too.





top hats with treats

Overturn top hats into containers to hold popcorn or paper cones of candy floss. Use the printable party patterned paper to line the hats.

the white rabbit

Bunnies are not just for Easter, so start your white ceramic rabbit collection today. Set the white bunny front and centre on the table complete with a bow tie fashioned from satin ribbon.



deck of cards

Playing cards make for easy and inexpensive decor additions. Besides purchasing standard size packs, see if you can get giant cards for placemats or miniature ones for "food picks".



bunny stand

Get a bunch of metal tin buckets; upright they hold goodies and overturned they are perfect as stands for little critters.



starry night

Selecting a motif like a star allows for one to create a unified look even on plain partyware. Here we sourced star straws, tags and a table runner – but one could equally purchase a pack of gold star stickers and decorate plain fabric, bottles and paper plates, cups and straws. One can even stick stars together to make table confetti.



menu

MAGICIAN'S TOP HAT POPS

CLUB SUIT SANDWICH

MAGIC WANDS

SAWING IN HALF CAKE

magician's top hat pops

1 packet marshmallows • 1 packet Oreos or similar shape biscuits
dark chocolate • white fondant icing • silver edible glitter • straws or plastic sticks

1 Melt the chocolate and push a straw into the top of the marshmallow. **2** Using the straw as a "handle", dip the marshmallow in chocolate and then place it in the centre of the Oreo. **3** When the chocolate has set, pipe a line around the top hat to form a band with the white icing. **4** Sprinkle the icing with edible glitter.



club suit sandwich

Cookie cutters are an easy and effective way of transforming an ordinary cheese and ham or any other flavour sandwich into something special. Prepare your fillings but make the sandwiches no more than a couple of hours before the party to ensure the bread stays fresh and doesn't dry out or become soggy.

SUGGESTED FILLINGS

peanut butter and banana – check whether any guests have food allergies before serving these • ham and cheese • egg mayo • chicken mayo – whizz the chicken in a food processor to get a fine consistency.

Spread the bread with the fillings and use a cookie cutter to cut into shapes.
Place on serving platters and cover with cling film until serving.



magic wands

6-8 long liquorice pieces • 150g white chocolate, melted
edible glitter and sprinkles

1 Dip the ends of the liquorice into the melted chocolate, about 5cm. **2** Place on a piece of greaseproof paper and allow to dry slightly. **3** Dip again and sprinkle with edible glitter and sprinkles. **4** Easy as 1, 2, 3!



sawing in half cake

1 chocolate cake mix • 1 Barbie doll (you might find it easier to remove the arms) • plastic saw • piece of ribbon for the blindfold

1 Use your favourite recipe or packet mix and bake the chocolate cake in a loaf tin. Allow to cool completely and if possible, allow to stand for a day. **2** With a sharp knife, cut a hole in the side of the cake, and then with a circular piece of pipe, make a hole through the cake and insert the Barbie. **3** Tie the piece of ribbon over Barbie's eyes as a blindfold and serve with the plastic saw.



moustache mayhem

Encourage your guests to be magicians for the day. You may wish to supply them with black capes and top hats – but even just giving each guest their own moustache to wear will give them the disguise they need to put on a show.



magic must-have

A magic wand is every magician's official accessory. These can easily be made for your guests before the party or consider making this as a party activity. Supplies include 30cm wooden dowel sticks, black paint, glitter and 3cm-wide white rectangular labels. Paint the dowel sticks black and when still wet, sprinkle on glitter. Once completely dry, wrap a rectangular white label at each end – and then get ready to do some magic!



a card trick

Fan out your deck of cards and have a spectator pick any card. Distract them by saying "Are you sure you've memorised it?" While they are distracted, turn the deck over and flip the bottom card so it's back-up, not face-up. Holding the deck with the bottom up (although it appears to the audience as the top) tell them to put their card back on top. Now try to distract them again by telling them to think of their card very hard, and hold your deck off to the side and quickly turn it so it is top-up again. Now fan out the cards, and their card will be face-up. They'll be amazed.



a cup trick

Put three cups together with a hidden cotton wool ball in the middle one and three balls on the table. Pass the cup from the bottom to the top, so the ball will now be in the cup at the bottom. Ask a spectator to extend their hand, palm up. One by one put two balls in his hand and place over the balls the cup from the bottom, upside down, then the middle one on top of it and the last one again on the top. Take the third ball and put it in your pocket. Say the magic words, lift the cups and the audience will see that the ball has travelled to the hand of the spectator.



bag of tricks

materials printable "BAG OF TRICKS" poster • colour printer • 160gsm or thicker A4 white paper • scissors • printable favour tag • twine • hole punch

directions **1** Print the printable "BAG OF TRICKS" poster on white printer paper. **2** Stick the edges of the poster onto another piece of paper on both sides and the bottom edge, leaving the top open. **3** Print the printable party circle THANK YOU tag, cut out and punch a hole in the top left hand corner. **4** Similarly, punch a hole in the top of the "BAG OF TRICKS" poster bag and tie the tag to the top of the bag. **5** Fill the bag with the printable party trick sheets and magic supplies: red handkerchief, pack of cards, coins etc.



sip, dip and chip cantina



whilst cinco de mayo (the fifth of may) is not an official mexican holiday, it still provides an easy excuse for some fiesta fun. serve refreshing sips, nacho chips and spicy dips and get ready for some fun in the sun.

may • chapter five





invitation – vayamos de fiesta!

materials printable fiesta invitation • colour printer • 160gsm white printer paper • scissors

directions **1** Print out the printable fiesta invitation. **2** Cut out the invitation. **3** Fill in the party details. **4** Place inside an addressed envelope and hand out or post to guests.

good idea To add a bit of spice, punch a hole at the top or bottom of the invitation and tie a dried chilli or two with raffia.

another good idea Fill the envelope with confetti so that when the envelope is opened it spills out like a piñata.



crochet garland

materials 2mm crochet hook • 4ply cotton wool • scissors • twine

directions **1** 10 chain, join with sl st. **2** Round 1: 3 chain (counts as 1 tr), 23 tr. sl st into 3rd chain. **3** Round 2: 5 ch, miss 2 tr then dc into next treble, [4ch, miss 2 tr then dc into next tr] x 6 sl st into 1st chain. **4** Round 3: sl st into 4 ch space of round below, 3 ch (counts as 1tr), 1tr into same ch space, 2 ch, 2 tr into same ch space [1 ch, 2 tr, 2 ch, 2 tr into next 4 ch space below] x 7, 1ch, sl st into 3rd ch. **5** Round 4: sl st into next tr and do another sl st into first 2 ch space, 3 ch, 6 tr into same space, 1 dc into next ch space [7 tr into next 2 ch space, 1 dc into next ch space] x 7 sl st into 3rd ch. **6** Cast off.



tissue paper pom poms

materials tissue paper 8 sheets per pom • fishing line gut • scissors

directions **1** Stack 8 sheets of tissue. Make 5cm accordion folds, creasing with each fold. **2** Tie a piece of gut over centre of folded tissue. Tie a 1 metre length of gut to the centre piece, for hanging. **3** With scissors, trim ends of tissue into rounded or pointy shapes. **4** Separate layers, pulling away from centre one at a time.

chair ribbons

MATERIALS 1 metre lengths of ribbon in a variety of shades of reds and pinks (or your chosen colour) in different patterns and widths • sharp scissors • open chair back

directions **1** Cut the ribbon into 1 metre lengths with sharp scissors. Cut enough so that each chair has at least 5 different ribbons varying from dark to light. **2** Take one length of ribbon and halve to make a loop. Thread this loop through the open back of a chair at the top. Take both ends of the ribbon and thread this through the loop, and pull. **3** Continue until the chair is full of pretty ribbon streamers.



bottles of blooms

Bright flowers in full bloom are arranged in colourful Mexican glass bottles. For the same look use recycled bottles and dye the water different colours with a few drops of food colouring.



candle wings

A quirky set of Mexican tin metal angel wings are affixed to either side of a white pillar candle.



salud sticks

Cocktail wooden drink stirrers are given some Mexican flavour when SALUD! is rubber stamped down the centre.

good idea These make great place cards too when stamped with your guests' names.



cupcake liner covers

Turn this everyday object upside down. Take a cupcake liner and punch a hole in the centre. Slide the liner over the straw and place in the glass of your choice. Now your summer spritzer is ready to be served without any unwanted guests.



menu

BEST LEMONADE EVER

CHEESY CHICKEN NACHOS

TOMATO SALSA AND GUACAMOLE

PULLED PORK FAJITAS

CACTI CUPCAKES

SOMBRERO COOKIES

WATERMELON ICE CREAM CAKE

best lemonade ever

1 cup sugar (can reduce to $\frac{3}{4}$ cup) • 1 cup water (for the simple syrup)
1 cup lemon juice • 3-4 cups cold water (to dilute)

1 Make a simple syrup by heating the sugar and water in a small pot until the sugar is dissolved completely. **2** While the sugar is dissolving, use a juicer to extract the juice from 4-6 lemons, enough for 1 cup of juice. (Or you can even use shop-bought lemon juice). **3** Add the juice and the sugar water to a jug or dispenser. Add 3-4 cups of cold water, more or less, to the desired strength. Refrigerate for 30-40 minutes. If the lemonade is a little sweet for your taste, add a little more straight lemon juice to it. **4** Serve with ice and sliced lemons.

SERVES 6



cheesy chicken nachos

200g plain corn tortilla chips • 2 cooked chicken breasts, shredded or diced
¾ cup mild salsa • 1 cup grated Cheddar cheese

ACCOMPANIMENTS

sour cream or crème fraîche • guacamole • pickled jalapeños
diced tomato and spring onion • fresh coriander

1 Preheat oven to 200°C and grease an oven tray. **2** Lay the tortilla chips in an even layer on the tray and top with chicken, salsa and grated cheese. **3** Bake for 8-10 minutes until cheese is melted and bubbly and golden. **4** Serve with accompaniments.

SERVES 4

tomato salsa

3 medium tomatoes • 1 spring onion, chopped • 1 garlic clove, crushed
1 tablespoon olive oil • 1 tablespoon coriander, chopped
salt and pepper (optional)

1 Quarter the tomatoes and remove the seeds. Dice. **2** Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl and keep covered until serving. **3** Can be made 2 days ahead and stored in the fridge.

SERVES 8

guacamole

2 ripe avocados, halved and diced (reserve the pips)
2 tablespoons mayonnaise • 2 tablespoons sour cream
1 tablespoon coriander, chopped • 1 tablespoon lemon juice

1 Place the avocado, mayonnaise and sour cream in a bowl and mash together. **2** Add the coriander and lemon juice. **3** Push the avocado pips into the centre of the mixture to prevent discolouration. **4** Cover and keep refrigerated, remove pips before serving.

SERVES 8



pulled pork fajitas

This is a great recipe for adults and children, adjust the spiciness according to your taste. For non-pork eaters a rolled beef roast can be substituted.

FOR THE PORK

1.2kg rolled pork roast (boneless) • 250ml/1 cup BBQ sauce
15ml/1 tablespoon mustard • 15ml/1 tablespoon tomato sauce
15ml/1 tablespoon cayenne pepper (optional for children)
15ml/1 tablespoon brown sugar

FOR THE FAJITAS

1 packet corn tortillas • guacamole or diced avocado • diced tomato
sour cream • lemon or lime wedges

1 To make the pork, put the roast in a slow cooker with the ingredients listed. Set slow cooker on high for 12 hours. **2** Remove pork from liquid in slow cooker, remove any fat and string and shred into strips using a fork. **3** Skim the fat (there will be a lot) from the sauce and mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of skimmed sauce with the meat. **4** To assemble, heat tortillas for a few seconds in microwave, and place each one flat as you assemble with meat topped with avocado, tomato and a squeeze of lemon or lime juice. Roll up to serve.

If you do not have a slow cooker, place pork with ingredients in an ovenproof dish with tight-fitting lid. Cook in oven at 150°C for 5 hours until tender and falling apart. Proceed with the rest of the recipe.

SERVES 8



cacti cupcakes

If you don't have mini terracotta pots, bake the cupcakes in paper cases and pop into little coloured plastic pot plant pots instead.

1 batch pre-baked chocolate cupcakes, either in cupcake cases or mini terracotta pots • white frosting • chocolate frosting ready-to-roll fondant icing • 2 Marie biscuits

1 With a bread knife, level each cupcake so the top is even. Spread with chocolate frosting to make the soil. **2** Crush the marie biscuits and sprinkle over the soil to create sand. **3** To make the cactus, colour the fondant icing with green food colouring and roll or shape either into an oblong or a round shape to create the plant. **4** Place the plant on the soil. Colour the white frosting with green food colouring and, using a piping bag fitted with a small star shaped nozzle, pipe long "ribs" to create the tall plant and small stars to create the spikey round plant. **5** Top the tall plant with a colourful icing flower.

MAKES 12

sombrero biscuits

(SEE PAGE 2 FOR PICTURE)

1 packet Marie biscuits or ½ quantity sugar biscuits baked in round disks
1 quantity royal icing or 400g ready-to-spread frosting or butter icing
1-2 packets (120g) fruit pastilles
food colouring of your choice • vermicelli or hundreds and thousands

1 Divide the icing into 5 equal portions and colour each portion with selected food colouring colours. **2** Put icing in a piping bag fitted with a plain nozzle or in ziploc bags with the corner snipped with scissors. **3** Pipe icing around the edge of the biscuit and a big dollop in the middle to secure the sweetie. **4** Sprinkle with hundreds and thousands, and set aside to dry. **5** Give as favours or serve with other sweet treats on the buffet.

MAKES 30



watermelon ice cream cake

Start this "project" a few days ahead of time as it requires a couple of days for the layering of the ice cream. Keep frozen until serving.

2 litres pistachio ice cream, or green-coloured ice cream
½ litre vanilla ice cream • 2 litres strawberry ice cream
100g small chocolate chips

- 1** Line a 30cm springform tin with cling film.
- 2** Start with the green layer for the rind: allow the pistachio ice cream to soften slightly at room temperature and then, using a spoon, scoop into the tin pressing only against the sides to form a ring. Place in freezer for 8 hours until frozen.
- 3** Repeat with vanilla ice cream to make the white layer. Freeze.
- 4** To make the middle section, soften the strawberry ice cream and stir in the chocolate chips.
- 5** Press into the centre of the "cake", smooth the top with a spatula and freeze.
- 6** To serve, unmould from the tin, remove cling film and turn out onto a cake plate.
- 7** Serve immediately.

SERVES 10

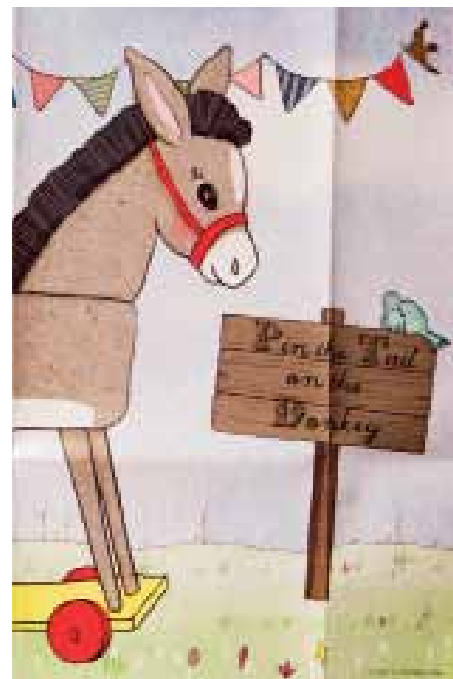


get fighting

This party game is best played outdoors or in a space large enough for running. Ask a volunteer to be the "donkey pinata". The other guests are provided with a tub of water balloons that they must use to drench the donkey. When the donkey is hit with a balloon, he will throw out some sweets. The game continues until the candy has run out.

get guessing

Buy packets of different flavoured jelly beans and hold a competition to see who guesses the most correctly. For grown ups, how about a chilli eating contest?



get pinning

Pin the tail on the donkey is one of the oldest party games there is, and yet still a hit. Tape a donkey poster to the wall, cut out a paper tail and stick tape to the end. Blindfold the player, spin them around a few times, place the tail in their hand and guide them to pin the tail on the target.



muchas gracias

Print the printable Mexican favour tags, and with a little bit of ribbon, leftover decorations like the sunflowers and potted chilli plants can be given to guests on their way out.



get licking

Set up a makeshift ice cream parlour by buying different flavours of ice cream, sugar cones and all sorts of toppings.

get lucky

Make handing out your party favours into a game, by filling sweet paper packets with your favour of choice. Mix the favours together in a container, so that guests can dip their hand into the container and randomly pull out a toy. For a bit of added fun, fill a few of the packets with booby prizes and maybe one with a great grand prize!



a right royal romp



Hear ye, hear ye! Invite all the lords and ladies in the land to partake in an evening of royal feasting and festivities. After the banquet, let the tournament begin; from jousting to tug of war, everyone is sure to give it a go – especially for a prize of gold.

june • chapter six





giant scroll invitation

Make your invitation a royal announcement by creating an oversized paper scroll bearing the good news.

materials royal scroll printable invitation • 160gsm white paper • colour printer
black fineliner pen • ribbon

directions **1** Print the royal scroll invitation as large as possible on your home printer, or have it professionally printed on a large scale. **2** Fill in the party details. **3** Roll the page from both ends to the middle to create a scroll. **4** Tie with a velvet ribbon bow.



fanfare

With a flourish of trumpets, announce each of your guests as they arrive – a good opportunity to snap a few photos, especially if your guests come dressed in all their finery.

materials toy trumpet • gold spray paint • printable party banner • 160gsm white paper • colour printer • scissors • hole punch • ribbon

directions **1** Spraypaint the trumpet with gold spray paint. Spray 2 to 3 coats, and let dry completely between coats. **2** Print and cut out the banner. Punch a hole in the top two corners of the banner. **3** Tie to the bottom of the trumpet with ribbon.



throne

Reserve a seat for your guest of honour by making up the printable reserved sign and tying this with a twine tassel to their chair.



wines and vines

Burnished silver vases and pitchers found in flea markets filled with a few burgundy flower heads make for a fine arrangement. Furthermore, lengths of ivy trailing down the table centre or around the chairs are an easy and inexpensive addition.



linen and lace

Deck the table in wheat-coloured tablecloths or runners made from hessian. Echo the surface in your arrangements by filling silver lace-edged glass votives with little bushels of wheat.

dark ages

Be sure to dim the overhead lights and the warm glow from antique candelabras, candleholders and votives will easily recreate the banquet and ballrooms of days of old.



the midas touch

With a touch of gold spray paint, transform plastic fruit and trinkets into treasure. Display these on tiered silver tea trays among real red grapes and miniature bread rolls.



menu

LITTLE PEOPLE'S PIMMS
 PLOUGHMAN'S ROLLS
 BREAD AND BUTTER PUDDING
 JEWELLED TRIFLE CUPS
 ROOT VEGGIE KEBABS

little people's pimm's

1 litre red grape juice • 1 litre lemonade • 10 strawberries, washed and halved
 1 cucumber, sliced • 1 bunch mint, washed

1 In a jug, combine all the ingredients. **2** Chill and serve cold.

BIG PEOPLE'S PIMMS

1 Substitute the red grape juice with Pimms No. 1. **2** Mix 1 part Pimms No. 1 with 3 parts lemonade. **3** Serve over ice garnished with strawberries, mint and cucumber.

MAKES 2 LITRES



ploughman's rolls

1 Cut rolls down the centre, instead of the usual manner of through the centre. **2** Fill with wedges of cheese and slices of ham. **3** Serve with mayo, piccalilli and mild mustard.



bread and butter pudding

There is no waiting with this quick recipe, simply bake and enjoy.

8 butter croissants • 1 cup raisins (optional) • 1 litre custard

1 Preheat oven to 180°C; grease an ovenproof dish or individual dishes such as ramekins. **2** Cut the croissants in half and arrange in the dishes, scatter with raisins and pour over the custard. **3** Bake for 30 minutes until golden and hot. **4** Serve warm dusted with icing sugar.

SERVES 8



Jewelled trifle cups

1 litre custard • 1 packet finger biscuits or a Madeira loaf cut into pieces
2 different colours of jelly – orange garnet or ruby and purple (the jewel colours)
work well for this theme.

1 To assemble the trifles, layer pieces of biscuit or trifle with jelly and pour over the custard, ending with the jelly on the top layer. **2** Keep refrigerated until serving.

SERVES 8

root veggie kebabs

500g assorted root vegetables, cut into chunks: butternut, sweet potato, onion, potato • 2 tablespoons olive oil • salt and freshly ground black pepper
bamboo skewers

1 Preheat the oven to 180°C. **2** Thread the veggies onto the skewers and lay out on a baking tray, drizzle with olive oil and season. **3** Bake for 30-40 minutes until tender. **4** Serve warm.

SERVES 8



silver armour

These striking suits of armour do not require a single stitch, and look very much the part, especially when a shiny velvet fabric is used.

materials silver velvet fabric • pinking shears • curtain tassel tieback or thick rope

directions **1** For each child, measure the width of the child's back and add 5cm. Then, measure the height of the child's back (from knee to shoulder); double that figure and add 10cm. **2** With pinking shears, cut a piece of silver velvet fabric to those dimensions. **3** Fold the fabric in half and on the fold centre, cut a semicircle approximately 10cm in diameter. **4** Drape each tunic evenly over the child's back. **5** Finally, loop a curtain tassel tieback (or thick rope) around the child's waist, tying it in a bow.

good idea Cut a cross or heart design out of purple or green felt and hot-glue one to the centre of each tunic's front.

crowning glory

These crowns may just be made of paper, but are surely a fine fit for a king.

materials printable crowns • colour printer • A3 white 160gsm paper scissors glue stick

directions **1** Print and cut out the printable crown pieces. **2** Glue the crown to the bands. **3** Adjust the band width around the child's head for a perfect fit.

good idea Supply rhinestones and glitter and encourage guests to add a bit of bling to their crowns.



archery

Purchase an archery set and in a designated area, set up a dartboard or bottles as targets, and guests can give it a go.



tug of war

Pit two teams against each other in a test of strength. A thick rope is marked with a "centre line" and two markings 4 metres on either side of the centre line. The teams start with the rope's centre line directly above a line marked on the ground, and once the contest has commenced, attempt to pull the other team such that the marking on the rope closest to their opponent crosses the centre line.



crown toss

Much like the carnival "ring toss" game where rings are tossed around a peg: toss the gold crowns over a candlestick holder to win a prize.



bocce

A sport played with 1 small ball (pallino) and 8 larger balls (4 for each team). The pallino is thrown first and becomes the target. Then each bocce (large ball) is thrown with the goal of placing it as close to the pallino as possible.

good idea Play a miniature version with marbles.



musical chairs

All the knights are ready to take their seats at the royal ball, only to find that when the music stops, a place is missing and the player without a chair is eliminated from the game. Another chair is removed so that there will always be one less chair than there are players. The music resumes and the cycle repeats until there is only one player left in the game, who is the winner.



shields

With our printable knight shields, party-going knights can create their own custom shield as a keepsake party favour. Pre-print the sheets and provide felt-tip pens and stickers.



ye old stocks

Print the printable stockade on a large scale. Cut out the holes for two arms and a head. Tape the poster to either side of two poles pushed into the ground and you have the makings of an original photo booth set up like the stockade boards of old.



Jousting

Host your own tournament, with hobby horses and pool noodles as lances. The primary aim is to "strike" the opponent with the lance while "riding" towards him at high speed!



coin pouches

materials velvet fabric • scissors • sewing machine • cotton • twine • hole punch
printable party circle tags • gold coins

directions **1** Cut the fabric into pieces measuring 12cm x 30cm. **2** Sew a 1cm hem along both sides that measure 12cm each. **3** Fold the fabric in half, right sides together (measuring 12cm x 15cm). **4** Sew a 1cm hem along the 15cm x 12cm x 15cm edges, leaving the top 12cm edge open. **5** Turn inside out and iron flat. **6** Fill with gold chocolate coins. **7** Tie closed with thick twine.

good idea For ladies, fill the pouches with dried lavender and/or cedar balls to use the now scented bags to line their drawers and for lords, fill with a miniature bottle of whisky or liqueur.



hoedown throw down



“Howdy pardner!” complete with iconic wild west details; get all the family together for a rustic reunion they will remember for many years to come. This hoedown is filled with all the makings of a classic backyard BBQ and laidback games for the young’ins that will have the grown-ups itching to join in too.

july • chapter seven





lasso letter

materials printable party fill-in invitation • 160gsm white A4 paper • A6 red cardboard • red envelope • stapler with staples • horse stickers • twine • scissors

directions **1** Print the printable party invitation onto white paper, cut out and pen in the party details. **2** Staple the invitation in each corner to the red cardboard. **3** Feed the red envelope into your printer, taking note of the printer settings, and print the printable party envelope cover. **4** To make a miniature lasso, cut the twine into a piece 10cm in length, make a loop and tie a knot on one end. **5** Stick a horse sticker alongside the envelope's printed text with the lasso tied around the neck. **6** Place the invitation in the envelope. Hand out to guests.



fabric pennant bunting

materials party pennant template • cotton fabric: polka dots, stars or stripe patterns • pins • pinking shears • sewing machine • twine • needle

note A piece of fabric 1m x 1.5m will make 28 pennants. Stringing approximately 4/5 pennants per metre will result in a total of 6 metres of bunting.

directions **1** Fold a piece of the fabric, wrong sides together, so that the width is the height of the bunting flag template. **2** Lay the template at one end so that the top of the flag is placed on the fold of the fabric and pin to the fabric. **3** Cut around the template using pinking shears. **4** Repeat all the way along the fold to the other end. **5** Repeat steps 1 to 4 until the width of the fabric is no longer sufficient to accommodate the height of the pennant flag. **6** For each cut flag, turn out so that right sides are facing up. Iron flat. **7** Sew a 1cm seam along the top of the pennant flag. Trim off cotton ends. **8** Thread twine through a needle and tie a loose knot. **9** Thread the twine through the hem of each pennant in the order you would like the pennants to hang. Be sure to leave 30cm of twine at either end for easy hanging.



wanted posters

Set the mood from the very beginning with one or more WANTED posters to greet guests at the door. Equally, make sure guests arrive to the haunting strains of ragtime or old-timey saloon piano music for a party worthy of an Old Wild West town.

materials WANTED poster • electronic format of a close-up photo of guest of honour(s) • printer • white paper • scissors • glue stick • prestik

Directions **1** Print the photo of the guest of honour in A6 size, formatted to be in the centre of an A4 page. **2** Print the printable party WANTED poster. **3** On the poster, cut out the centre so that when placed on top of the printed photo page, the image is shown through. **4** Glue the photo page underneath the WANTED poster page. **5** Stick with prestik to the wall/door at your party entrance.

good idea Create a smaller version of the above poster and give these out as invitations to your party with the details on the back.

another good idea Create a larger (A2 or bigger) version on very thick cardboard and/or stick to polystyrene/chipboard. Cut out the centre to create a photo booth prop.



in a bucket

A variety of centrepieces can be made using a simple tin bucket. Fill the base with gravel stones and add apples on top, real or fake (print the printable party cacti) cacti plants or attach cut-out cowboy images (print the printable party horse heads) and fasten to skewers.



pint-size paddock

No party is complete without a few "characters" on the table. Here we added toy figurines of cowboys, horses and even little picket fences to create a miniature ranch or rodeo scene.

benches and bales

Set up your table outdoors on bare wooden tables and benches, and if you can, swap out the benches for hay bales.



*kerchiefs

Dress little drinking glass bottles with red handkerchiefs. A triangle measuring 8cm x 8cm x 8cm cut with pinking shears mimics the real thing when tied in a knot around the neck of the bottle.



savvy succulents

Old enamel cups filled with sand, stones and small succulents not only make long-lasting (easy to prep beforehand) flowers for your table but do double-duty as party favours for adults in attendance or party helpers.



menu

COWBOY COLESLAW

HOMEMADE GINGER BEER

CORN BREAD

DIY HAMBURGER BAR

CHIP 'N DIP

ALL-AMERICAN DESSERT STATION

cowboy coleslaw

350g white cabbage, grated • 1 large carrot, grated

2-3 sticks celery, finely chopped • 1 apple, sliced

1 small bunch grapes, sliced in half • 100ml mayonnaise

100ml plain low fat yoghurt

1 Toss all the ingredients together in a bowl. Cover and leave to stand for 2-3 hours before serving. **2** Divide into portions and serve in cups or individual serving containers. **3** Coleslaw can be made up to a day ahead of the party; cover and keep refrigerated until serving.

SERVES 8



homemade ginger beer

rind of 2 lemons, finely grated • 2 thumb-sized pieces fresh ginger, grated
 1 cup freshly-squeezed lemon juice • 6 raisins • 3 cups white sugar • 5 litres water
 10g sachet of instant (active dry) yeast • cling film
 clean, rinsed 5 litre plastic bucket • clean, rinsed 1 or 2 litre plastic bottles

1 Add the lemon rind, lemon juice, raisins and sugar to the bucket. Pour 1 litre of hot water into the bucket and stir well for 3 minutes. Leave to cool for 5 minutes. **2** Pour 4 litres of warm water into the bucket. Sprinkle the dried yeast over the top of the water and leave for 5 minutes. Then stir the bucket, cover with cling film and place in a warm place (not in direct sunlight). Leave for about 4-5 hours, stirring once or twice. **3** Strain the ginger beer and decant into plastic bottles, filling each bottle to about 7cm from the top. Put a single raisin in each bottle, screw on the lids tightly and set the bottles on a countertop, at room temperature, for at least 8 hours. **4** Open each bottle very carefully to release the excess gas. Screw on the lids tightly again and put the bottles in the fridge. Leave to chill completely. Serve with a lemon wedge and ice. Keeps well in the fridge for up to a week.

MAKES 5 LITRES

GOOD IDEA Serve bar snacks: nuts, beef jerky (biltong) and popcorn.
 These require almost no prep and are easy to replenish.



corn bread

This can also be made in a rectangular baking tin and cut into squares.

375g self-raising flour
 225g cornmeal/fine grain polenta (instant polenta is the best)
 1 tsp/5ml salt • 110g/½ cup sugar • 500ml/2 cups milk
 100g butter, melted • 2 peppadews, chopped • 410g tin sweetcorn kernels

1 Preheat the oven to 180°C. **2** In a bowl, mix all the ingredients together except the sweetcorn until you have a smooth batter the consistency of cake batter. Add the sweetcorn. **3** Spoon mixture into cupcake or muffin cases and bake for 20 minutes (30 minutes if baking in a baking tin) until golden brown and springy to the touch. **4** Serve while still warm with chive butter.

CHIVE BUTTER

150g butter, softened • zest and juice of 1 lemon
 15ml/1 tablespoon chives, chopped

1 Mix together and roll in wax wrap to create a log shape. Chill until serving, cut into disks and serve with corn muffins.

MAKES 12



diy hamburger bar

What could be more fun than biting into a delicious hamburger patty to find a hidden surprise? The burger patties can be made ahead of time and frozen until needed.

Defrost well before cooking.

FOR THE PATTIES

500g lean beef mince • 30ml/2 tablespoons tomato sauce
15ml/1 tablespoon soya sauce • 15ml/1 tablespoon BBQ sauce
30ml/2 tablespoons dry breadcrumbs • 1 egg, beaten
8 blocks Cheddar cheese, approx 2cm each

FOR THE BURGERS

8 mini burger buns • lettuce • tomato salsa

1 To make the patties, mix all the ingredients together in a bowl. Children can help with this, but make sure not to over-work the mixture or this will make the patty tough. With damp hands, divide the mixture into 8 even balls and shape into patties. **2** Insert a piece of cheese into the centre of each patty. Make sure the meat is surrounding the cheese. **3** Place on a greased baking sheet and chill for 30 minutes before cooking. **4** Heat a grill pan or BBQ, brush each patty with oil, and grill for 5-8 minutes on each side until done. **5** Serve on burger buns with lettuce and tomato salsa.

SERVES 8

chip 'n dip

700g potatoes, washed • 60ml/4 tablespoons olive oil
rosemary stalks (optional) • sea salt and black pepper (optional)

1 Preheat oven to 200°C. **2** Cut potatoes into wedges and toss with olive oil and seasoning. **3** Roast for 30-40 minutes until soft in the centre and crispy. **4** Serve with dips from Mexican chapter.

SERVES 8



all-american dessert station

backdrop A blank wall is the perfect background to show off a collection of removable wall stickers.

table A sideboard of drawers is used as a "table" by covering it with a large piece of gingham fabric where the ends were trimmed with pinking shears – no sewing needed. The front end of the table is given a lift with the addition of a paper garland – the printable party bunting spelling out the guest of honour's name would work just as well.

height Variation in height is easily achieved with pre-covered check gift boxes. One could also use overturned wooden crates.

containers All-white cake stands in various shapes and sizes are used to display all the cakes. Proving that an all-white collection of ceramics is a good place to start a serverware collection.

decorative items Little wooden chalkboard labels and tags label each of the cakes on offer. A firm favourite: small toy figurines are purchased to top off all the desserts.

desserts Classic American desserts bought from the supermarket bakery eliminate the need for a fancy cake: coconut lemon cake, pecan pie, chocolate chip cookies, devil's food cake, chocolate cupcakes, apple pie and pumpkin pie. A real feast for the eyes, and the tummy!

sweets Store-bought treats are repackaged in cellophane bags and trimmed with red twine and party circle favour tags. Chocolate-covered liquorice becomes "Bandit Bullets" and biltong sticks "Beef Jerky".



clothes peg drop

Place a pair of boots alongside a low wall or chair. Players are given a handful of pegs and must stand on the wall or chair and from that height try to drop the pegs into the boots below. Points or sweets are given for each successful drop.

ride 'em cowboy

Divide your players into two teams and play a classic relay racing game, but instead of running the players must ride the hobby horses across the plains.



tin can shootout

Recycle lots of old tin cans and scatter these around the party venue at various vantage points. Fill water pistols and give each guest the opportunity to do some target practice.

steer roping

Place a hobby horse in the centre of a play area. Hand a player a lasso rope and they must try to loop it around the horse.



needle in a haystack

A take on the traditional "lucky dip" game. Fill some little cellophane bags with gold chocolate coins and others with toy spiders and snakes and hide these in a haystack. (No haystack? Fill a bucket with shredded brown paper or sawdust). Each child is blindfolded and has a chance to find as much treasure as they can before getting bitten. Package a little plastic needle that can be exchanged for a grand prize!

Indian war signs

Everyone sits in a circle and each player selects a hand sign, like a peace sign, OK sign and waving hello. Everyone learns each player's hand sign. All the players start drumming on the table to gear up for play. The leader yells, "What's the name of the game?" The crowd responds, "Thumper!" The leader then says, "What's the aim of the game?" The crowd responds, "To get messed up." The leader performs their own hand sign immediately followed by someone else's. That player then does his hand sign followed by someone else's sign. This repeats until someone either gets the signs wrong or responds too slowly. The player to miss is out of the game and the winner is the last one standing.

cowboy clobber

Include in your invitation a request for your guests to come dressed up. To encourage them you may want to hint that there will be prizes for the best dressed. Suggestions include: cowboy or any leather boots, denim jeans or skirts, possibly with a belt and big buckle, plaid shirts for the cowboys and lacy blouses for the cowgirls, cowboy hats, add a fake moustache or beard, or draw one in with eyeliner or possibly, some guests may want to come as an Old West banker, train robber or Indian.



texas hold 'em

Whilst the little ones are playing and the sun is setting, you may want to bring out a deck of cards to play some poker and other favourite card games.

square dancing

Players stand in an area and wait for music to start. When the music starts the players should dance to the music, the more spirited the better. The judge will then stop the music at a random point and all players should freeze. The judge watches to see who is still moving or does not stop fast enough, those people are called out of the game. The last person left is the winner.



panning for gold

Collect or purchase peanuts-sized stones and spraypaint them gold. If you do not already have a sandpit, fill a large plastic clam with play sand. Purchase aluminium foil plates and, using a pencil, puncture a number of holes into each one – this will allow for the sand to pass through but leave the gold behind when shaken from side to side. Before guests arrive, hide the gold stones in the play sand. Give each guest a plate as well as a small bag and let the gold rush begin.



sheriff school

materials printable sheriff certificate • colour printer • 160gsm or thicker white printer paper • black fineliner pen • printable sheriff party circle tag ribbon • scissors • safety pin

directions **1** To add a bit of fun to your games, start off by welcoming your guests to "sheriff school". Explain that there will a few lessons (the aforementioned games), and hopefully after all their training they will be able to be awarded a certificate and "SHERIFF" status. **2** After the games, line everyone up for an awards ceremony, and present each of your guests with a filled-in printable party sheriff certificate and a store-bought sheriff badge.

good idea Make your own sheriff badges by cutting out the sheriff printable party circle tag and taping a piece of fabric ribbon and a safety pin to the back of the tag.



alpine camp out



Answer the call of the wild by packing up your party in a rucksack and heading for the hills (or possibly just the bottom of your garden). Amongst the pines, set up camp, cook all your food on an open fire and explore the surrounds. Best of all, enjoy the great outdoors all night long under the stars.

august • chapter eight





fly the flag invitation

materials printable camp out invitation • printable Swiss flag • colour printer
160gsm white printer paper • scissors • bamboo skewers • paper glue

directions **1** Print and cut out the invitation and flag. **2** Wrap the edge of the flag around a bamboo skewer and glue down.

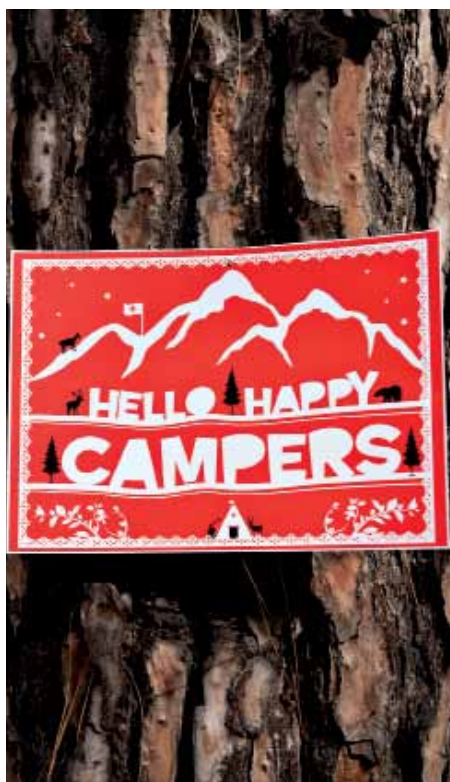
alpine animal lawn picks

materials printable animal silhouettes: deer, fox, bear, squirrel, cow and goat
colour printer • 160gsm or thicker white paper • scissors • dowel sticks, 1 metre in length • sticky tape

directions **1** Print and cut out the animal silhouettes. **2** Stick the animals to the dowel sticks with tape. **3** Push the sticks into the ground around the party area for decor.

good idea Line up the animals in two neat rows to make a pathway welcoming guests as they arrive.

another good idea Hide the animals in and around the campsite area, and encourage the guests to do a bit of animal spotting! Mark on the back of the animals a secret code word and after a set time everyone is to return and tally up their sightings. You may want to assign different point values based on the difficulty of their hiding places.



pitch a tent

For this camp out party, no table and chair setup is needed. Instead, pitch a tent and add a ground cover, blankets and rugs for an informal seating area. A wooden crate or two is useful not only to cart all your goodies to the campsite but overturned, makes the perfect mini table for foodie items.



napkin pockets

Easy to use and biodegradable bamboo plates and cutlery makes a good choice for camping. Craft little parcels from the printable party wrapper by either glueing or sewing the edges together. Pop cutlery and a folded napkin inside.



light the way

For a fun and useful garland, string up a number of real fire lanterns onto string tied between two trees. Decorate the tops with bright gingham ribbon for colour in the daytime, and as the sun sets, place lit tea lights inside to cast a warm glow over the site.



Just-picked posies

Turn old glass bottles into rope-wrapped vases by covering the bottle with glue and wrapping the rope around them. Once dry, fill the vases with just-picked flowers fresh from the field.



menu

SWISS HOT CHOCOLATE

APFELSCHORLE

ALPEN MACARONI

CHOCOLATE FONDUE

swiss hot chocolate

200g white Toblerone chocolate

(Toblerone is preferable but any white chocolate will be just as delicious)

500ml milk • mini marshmallows • whipped cream to garnish

1 Warm the milk in a pot but do not allow to boil. Pop in the chocolate and stir until it has melted. **2** Pour the hot chocolate into mugs, top with marshmallows and a dollop of cream. **3** Serve with a serviette around the mug so it doesn't burn your hands. **4** Sip and enjoy.

SERVES 2



apfelschorle

Apfelschorle is a popular soft drink in Switzerland and Germany. Make your own brew by combining 1 part carbonated mineral water and 1 part apple juice. For a grown-up version, add wine instead of apple juice to make a spritzer called weinschorle. Garnish with freshly-cut apple slices and serve in jars with daisy lids and retro striped straws.



chocolate fondue

Prepare your dipping items: clean, slice, and peel fruit like strawberries, lay out marshmallows, pretzels and cookies. Boil water, use a metal bowl and set it on top of the pot. Add the chocolate, stirring gently as it melts. Once it has melted, lower the heat. Keep the chocolate bowl over the cooling pot to prevent melting, but make sure it does not burn. Using skewers, dip your food, eating straight from the pot. Repeat until all the chocolate is gone.



alpen macaroni

There are several variations of this popular recipe, but the basic ingredients for Swiss macaroni include potatoes, macaroni, strongly flavoured cheese and onions. Of course, no matter how it is prepared, it is a delicious rustic treat perfect for a camp out!

500g potatoes, cut in approx 2cm cubes • 250g macaroni
500ml thick cream • 1 large white onion, sliced
salt and freshly ground black pepper • 200g Gruyère cheese, grated
apple sauce for serving

1 Heat the oven to 150°C. **2** Boil potatoes in a saucepan without a lid for 5 minutes. **3** Add the macaroni and cook until the pasta is al dente and most of the liquid is almost absorbed. **4** While the pasta is cooking, fry the onion slices in a pan without oil until crispy and golden; set aside. **5** Drain the pasta and potatoes, place in ramekins or an ovenproof dish and toss with the fried onion. **6** Pour cream over the potatoes and macaroni, season to taste. **7** Top with cheese. **8** Bake for approx 10 minutes until the cheese has melted. **10** Serve immediately with apple sauce.



woodland terrarium

materials glass Mason jar with lid • potting soil • activated charcoal • small stones, pebbles or gravel • sheet moss and/or small plants • decorations: small rocks, shells or plastic toys • bamboo skewers

directions **1** Prep your jar by washing it in warm, soapy water and drying it. Sunflower oil rubbed on with a cloth will remove any label residue. **2** Add a 2cm layer of pebbles to the bottom of the jar, followed by a thin layer of charcoal. The charcoal will help filter the water in your terrarium and will absorb odours. Add a 4 to 6cm layer of potting soil. **3** Tear pieces of moss off the sheet and place them in a single layer inside the jar. **4** Decorate as you wish with a variety of small plants, rocks, shells or plastic toys. **5** Water your terrarium lightly (until you see some moisture down in the pebble layer) and screw on the lid. **6** Water your terrarium every few weeks.

good idea It may be hard to fit your hand inside the jar to adjust things, so use a bamboo skewer to move the things around.



be prepared

A natural setting offers a dynamic, ever-changing canvas for your guests to explore and observe. This will keep them occupied most of the time; still, it pays to be prepared by having a "go-to" bag of tricks and get your little campers earning printable scout badges at the same time.

- Build a campfire
- Go animal spotting
- Put up a tent
- Play board games
- Take a hike
- Sing campfire songs



I spy with my little eye

Have one player choose an object that is visible to all the players and say, "I spy with my little eye something beginning with ...", naming the letter the chosen object starts with (e.g. "I spy with my little eye something beginning with T" if the chosen object is a tree). Other players have to guess the chosen object. An alternate version is played where the colour is given rather than the initial letter (e.g. "I spy with my little eye something green"). Add binoculars for added fun!



nature scrapbook

Make a list of treasures to find – all with different colours, shapes and sizes – and go on a nature walk of discovery. Give each guest a blank notebook and pencil, and encourage explorers to sketch, write or make rubbings of found objects. Glue or washi tape objects like leaves or twigs to a page. For a twist, try playing the alphabet game by finding a natural object that starts with each letter of the alphabet. For a modern variation, give each child a disposable digital camera so they can take pictures.



capture the flag

Divide guests into two teams, each with a flag. The aim is to capture the other team's flag, located at the team's "base", and bring it safely back to their own base. Enemy players can be "tagged" by players in their home territory; these players are then, depending on the agreed rules, out of the game, members of the opposite team, sent back to their own territory or "in jail".



woodland masks

Cut out the printable party masks and create a display on a tree totem-style. Have guests select their animal of choice and fasten with twine around their heads. Take a few photos and then play classic party games in disguise like:

Tag
Sardines
Jailbreak/1-2-3 block



stalk the lantern

Best played at night, a lantern is placed in the centre of the campsite guarded by a player. The rest of the players need to make their way to the lantern without getting caught. The guard tries to spot the other players as they make their way to the lantern.



the chocolate game

The players sit in a circle around a wrapped chocolate bar. Each participant rolls a die in turn. As the die continues around the circle, a player who rolls a six shouts "SIX!". They then have to dress up by putting on a few items of clothing before attempting to eat the chocolate bar using a knife and fork. The die continues around the circle until another player gets a six. The player in the centre has to stop and it is the turn of the new player to try and eat the chocolate. The aim of the game is to eat as much chocolate as possible.



night time shadows

To make shadow puppets, cut out the printable party animal silhouettes and tape to bamboo skewers. Peg a white sheet in front of a bright lamp or torch, and have guests proceed to recreate stories of their adventures and dreams.



trail mix

Trail mix is a great snack when hiking mountains or just spending a long day away from home. Trail mix can easily fit into a backpack and gives an energy boost when resources run low. For a healthy mix add: almonds, dark chocolate, sunflower and pumpkin seeds, unsweetened fruits like raisins, dried cranberries, apples, pineapple, apricots and toasted oats

bunches of bindles

(SEE PICTURE ON PAGE 166)

materials red fabric • scissors • dowel stick/twig branch

directions There are two basic components to a bindle: the kerchief and the stave that supports it. For a stave, any long, straight pole will do. A dowel stick purchased from a hardware store works well, but it may be more fun for guests to find their own stick. The kerchief is the part of the bindle that contains the goodies. This can be made from any fabric, in this case a 30cm square of cotton cloth. The kerchief doubles as a handkerchief and/or bandana.



born free baby shower



welcoming a new baby's arrival into the world is both an exciting and wild time. spoil the new mom-to-be with an afternoon of tea and treats under the African sun.

september • chapter nine





little notes

An invitation that says it all: "Nibbles, savoury and sweet, games to play and cakes to eat. With a little babe arriving soon, we'll gather for an afternoon. To shower mom-to-be with gifts and blessings, our love and support we'll be expressing. We hope you'll come to say hello, details below, so let us know."

materials baby printable party invitation • printable party note card • colour printer 160gsm or thicker white paper • scissors • black fineliner pen • envelope

directions **1** Print and cut out the printable party invitations and note cards. **2** Pen in the party details on the invitation. On the note card provide details of the gift registry. **3** Place invitation and note card inside an envelope, address and either hand deliver or post to the guests.

chalkboard welcome sign

materials pre-cut chipboard board • chalkboard paint • fine sand paper • primer paint brush • chalk

directions **1** The baby shower welcome sign was made from a pre-cut piece of chipboard shaped in the form of the African continent. Visit your local hardware store for a variety of shapes, and even a simple circle or rectangle will create a perfect sign. Similarly, "found" items like old wooden breadboards, wooden planks and trays can be used. Surfaces should be clean, dry and free from loose material, and rubbed down with fine sand paper. Note: a primer is required if the surface was previously covered with enamel oil-based paint, as well as any shiny, metal, vinyl or plastic surface. It is also recommended to prime or undercoat all bare timber surfaces to save a coat of the chalkboard paint. **2** For the chalkboard painting, stir the paint well before use. It can be diluted with water as it may thicken over time. Paint is then applied with a good brush, but a roller or painting sponge will work equally well. **3** Use 2-3 coats of paint and allow to dry thoroughly between coats. Light colours tend to need a layer or 2 more than darker ones. Try to brush in the same direction for each coat. Alternate the direction of your strokes for each coat to produce an even finish. **4** Leave to dry for 4 hours before use.



wild wallpaper

Our party was inspired by this Zoo Biscuit animal wallpaper. The paper not only set the animal theme and the pastel colour palette but as Zoo Biscuits are proudly South African, our menu followed suit. Consider basing your shower theme on the nursery as many of the decor goodies can be used at the party and in the bedroom afterwards.



paper proteas

For a long-lasting look and gift-in-one, purchase or make flowers from paper. Display the fake blooms together with grasses and fynbos (shrubs characteristically found in South Africa) for a more authentic look. Garden ferns and small leafy branches are also good choices that are cheap but chic with the addition of a few paper blooms.



tot toys

Turning a table into a baby shower theme is easily achieved with the addition of baby toys. Here we used baby animal figurines and wooden alphabet blocks. Bonus: these are given to the new baby to start off their toy box collection.



“t” is for two

Sometimes, one struggles to find theme-appropriate paper cups, plates and napkins. For this reason, consider opting for two themes instead of one: this baby shower combined safari animals with letters of the alphabet and as luck would have it, many of the letters on the paper cups and plates had little animal motifs too.



menu

ROOIBOS ICE TEA
MANGO, AVOCADO & BILTONG
SALAD CUPS
FROZEN FRUIT LOLLIES
GENDER REVEAL CUPCAKES
PEPPERMINT SAFARI CAKE

rooibos ice tea

6 tablespoons loose leaf rooibos or 6 teabags flavoured rooibos
2 litres boiling water • 2 litres clear apple juice

1 Pour boiling water over the rooibos and allow to stand for 20-30 minutes to draw. **2** Strain into a container and add the apple juice. **3** Serve well-chilled with lemon slices and mint leaves to garnish.

MAKES 4 LITRES



mango, avocado & biltong salad cups

1 large ripe mango, sliced • 2 avocados, sliced • mixed salad leaves
150g sliced biltong • salad dressing

1 Arrange the sliced mango and avocado on the salad leaves on a platter or in individual cups. **2** Garnish with sliced biltong. **3** Serve with salad dressing of your choice.

SERVES 6

frozen fruit lollies

These quick and refreshing treats can be made well ahead of time. Choose a selection of strongly flavoured typically South African juices such as guava, litchi, granadilla and naartjie.

500ml assorted fruit juices

1 Pour fruit juices into lolly containers and freeze for 24 hours. **2** Unmould and serve. **3** Enjoy immediately.



gender reveal cupcakes

Imagine the guests' surprise when they bite into a cupcake that reveals the new arrival's gender. Such fun! Be sure to not let any of the hidden colour peek through the top layer of icing and spoil the surprise.

12 vanilla cupcakes • 400g plain frosting or butter icing
pink or blue food colouring • 2 piping bags and nozzles
non-gender-related decorations and sprinkles

1 Divide the icing or frosting in half and put the plain one aside. **2** Using a few drops of either pink or blue food colouring, colour the remaining half of the icing. **3** With a small, sharp knife, cut a cone-shape piece of cake out of each of the cupcakes. **4** Fit a piping bag with a nozzle, fill with the pink or blue icing and pipe a small amount of icing into the hole in the centre of each cupcake. **5** With a clean piping bag and nozzle, pipe the plain uncoloured icing over the cupcakes. **6** Decorate with sprinkles and non-gender-related goodies, the surprise is inside!



peppermint crisp safari cake

500ml water • 660g castor sugar • 250g butter, chopped
35g cocoa powder, sifted • 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
450g self-raising flour • 4 eggs, beaten

FUDGEY CHOCOLATE ICING

90g butter • 80ml water • 110g castor sugar
240g icing sugar • 35g cocoa powder • 2 Peppermint Crisps, crushed

1 Grease and line the base and sides of a loaf tin with baking paper. **2** Combine the water, sugar, butter, cocoa and soda in a saucepan, stir over low heat without boiling until sugar dissolves. **3** Bring to a boil then reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 5 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and cool to room temperature. **4** Add flour and egg and beat until smooth and pale. **5** Pour into loaf tin. Bake in a moderate oven for 50 minutes. Stand for 10 minutes then turn onto a wire rack, top side up, to cool. **6** For the icing: combine the butter, water and castor sugar in a small saucepan. Stir over low heat without boiling until sugar dissolves. Sift icing sugar and cocoa into a small bowl then gradually stir into the hot butter mixture. Cover and refrigerate for 20 minutes or until frosting thickens. Beat with a wooden spoon until spreadable. **7** Ice the cake generously. **8** Sprinkle over the Peppermint Crisp and position your toy animals. Cake can be prepared the day before and stored in an airtight container.



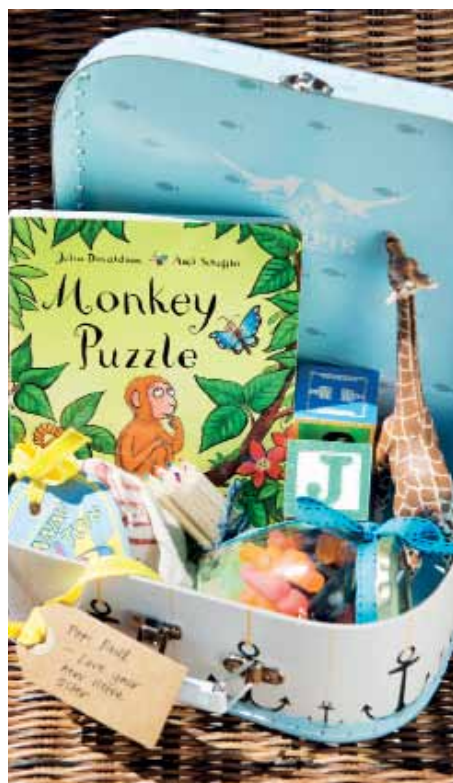
spaza shop

Create a dessert and favour buffet mimicking the spaza shops typically seen on the side of the road in South Africa. These informal stores sell confectionery finger food, such as sweets, crisps, soft drinks and so on, and make it convenient for passing travellers to get “padkos” (meaning: road food) on the go.

materials large flat rock or brick(s) • large piece of wooden board
cellophane packets • twine • chalkboard/sticker labels • sweets and snacks

directions **1** Set the rock on flat ground. As an alternative, one could use a large wooden or plastic crate. Place the large wooden piece of board on top. **2** Repackage all your sweets and snacks into small and similar-sized cellophane packets. **3** Tie closed with twine. **4** Label the bags with the stickers bearing the name of the goodies and the price.

good idea For a fun activity for young kids that may be in attendance at the baby shower: label the food items with prices and print out some paper money for them to play “Shop, Shop”.



gift from the baby

With the main focus of the baby shower being about giving gifts to the new baby, a thoughtful touch is to give a gift from the baby. Such gifts may be to the baby's new big brother(s) or sister(s). Or in the absence of siblings, as the host you may wish to spoil the new mom or dad too.



what's the baby animal?

Our printable party includes a pack of all sorts of baby shower specific games and answer sheets:

- What's The Baby Animal?
- Unscramble The Words
- Nursery Rhyme Fill In The Word
- Number Circles for Name That Baby: guests are asked to bring a baby photo, each are numbered, and guests must guess who is who.



baby bingo

Baby bingo is a traditional baby shower game that is fun and can be played as the rest of the shower moves along. As guests arrive, label each gift with a printable party circle number tag (depending on the number of gifts you may need to use more than one per gift). Pass out the printable Bingo cards (depending on the number of guests you may need to have guests share a card). As the mom-to-be opens her gifts, she can call off the numbers too, and guests mark off the numbers called on their sheet. When guests have marked off

a row of 5, up and down, left to right or diagonally, they should yell out, "BINGO!" The first to yell "Bingo" wins. Be sure that there is a pen at every seat, or give guests cute heart stickers to use in marking off their bingo squares. You will also want to have lots of small prizes, as this game lends itself to every guest being a winner. Alternatively, you can have one big prize for the first winner, and the party favours can serve as prizes for the winners thereafter.



guess the gender

If the expectant parents are mum about the baby's gender, set up a scoreboard with everyone's guess. This is a must-have activity for a gender reveal party. One could even ask guests to wear either pink or blue to the party or on arrival have little ribbons for guests to pin their pick onto their clothes. Another fun idea is to have everyone chalk up their suggestions for baby girl and boy names.



baobab wishing tree

A wishing tree works well at many a milestone occasion from weddings to baby showers. Our truly South African baobab tree crafted out of metal wire is set up on a side table together with a stack of washi-taped luggage tags and pens. The tree is used to hang the guests' well wishes or how about having guests share advice for the mom-to-be? No tree? No trouble! Use our printable party wishes for baby note cards for guests to finish the sentence with their wishes.



baby's first abc book

Print each letter of the printable alphabet pages. Pass out one sheet of the lettered paper to each person along with a supply of markers, crayons, coloured pencils and stickers. Ask each guest to decorate her page with things that relate to her letter – for example, whoever has the letter "A" might draw pictures of apples, alligators and ants. Your guests

should also put their name on the page and include a note to the soon-to-arrive baby if they like. After the shower, laminate the pages and bind them together to make up the baby's first alphabet book. If you have more than 26 guests, you can also add pages with numbers or shapes, or you can have more than one guest work on each page.



animal butt magnets

materials several plastic toy animals • xacto knife • small magnets (smaller than the girth of the toy animals) • hot glue gun

directions **1** Using the knife, cut the animal figurines in half. **2** Hot-glue a magnet to each animal half and let dry. **3** Package in paper packets with other sweets and treats and seal closed with heart stickers. Add a printable party favour tag if you like.

good idea Spraypaint the animals to match your party colours.



sugar and spice day spa



Time to rest, relax and rejuvenate; ask all your girlfriends to retreat to your luxury day spa. Transform your lounge into a peaceful haven bathed in the sights and sounds of an exotic Eastern destination. Offer guests a signature blend of refreshing spa treatments, sweets and treats to revitalise the senses.

october • chapter ten





bejewelled invitation and envelope

materials printable party invitation • printable party envelope • colour printer
160gsm or thicker white printer paper • black fineliner pen • scissors • glue • glitter glue
sequins or stick-on rhinestones

directions **1** Print and cut out the printable party invitation. **2** Fill in the party details. **3** Print and cut out the printable party envelope. **4** Score along the fold lines, fold and glue down the edges. **5** Decorate the invitation and envelope with glitter glue and/or stick on sequins and rhinestones. **6** Place the invitation inside the envelope and seal closed with glue.

good idea Use a punched-out party circle tag printed on sticker paper or fasten with glue to seal your envelope closed.

another good idea Spray your invitation with an exotic and spicy perfume.



exclusive entrance

materials printable door hanger • colour printer • 160gsm or thicker white printer paper • scissors

directions **1** Print and cut out the door hanger **2** Hook the hanger onto the door handle of the party room.

satin seats

materials continental pillow inner 70cm x 70cm • jewel-toned satin (1.5m-wide fabric and 0.75m in length will yield one pillow) • jewel-toned cotton sewing machine • scissors

MAKES 1

directions **1** Cut your fabric to size (75cm x 1.5m). Then further cut the fabric into three pieces: PIECE A – 75cm x 75cm; PIECE B – 75cm x 30cm; PIECE C – 75cm x 40cm **2** For PIECE B and PIECE C select one 75cm side on each and sew a hem of 1.5cm. **3** Right sides together, join PIECE A and B together. Sew a 1.5cm hem on the 35cm x 75cm x 35cm edge. **4** Right sides together, join the opposite side of PIECE A and PIECE C. Sew a 1.5cm hem on the 45cm x 75cm x 45cm edge. Note: 8.5cm on each side will overlap onto where PIECE A and B are joined together. **5** Turn the cushion cover inside out, and push corners out. Insert the cushion inner into the cushion cover.

good idea Forgo favours and gift the pillows to the guests afterwards – they make for great playroom or TV room additions.



bountiful butterflies

Cut out the printable party butterflies. On the underside of the body of the butterfly, stick double sided tape. Adhere the butterflies to paper lanterns, mosquito nets and bunches of flowers. Cut a small slit into the wing of each butterfly and these can rest on the edge of drinking glasses.



treasured trinkets

Visiting an Eastern market or shop will yield many decorative choices: parasols, lanterns, votives and ornaments. Even plain wooden or ceramic pieces can be spiced up a bit with the addition of gold or silver spray paint and stick-on sequins and rhinestones.



bold blossoms

Floral centrepieces are easily put together by filling a decorative bowl with water and floating real or fake flowers (water lilies, orchids, rose petals) on top. One could also float candles, or place candle votives alongside with LED tea lights for a fire safety option.



the lunch list

Following in the footsteps of five star hotels, provide a menu card listing all the meal options. The ladies can then check off the items that they would like to enjoy.



menu

INFUSED WATERS

MANGO LASSI

MANGO SORBET POPS

SPA SKEWERS

TANDOORI CHICKEN PITAS WITH

CUCUMBER AND MINT RAITA

strawberry and mint

6 cups chilled still spring or mineral water • 16 strawberries, thinly sliced
4 mint sprigs

grapefruit, orange and lime

6 cups chilled still spring or mineral water • ½ grapefruit, thinly sliced
1 orange, thinly sliced • ½ lime, thinly sliced • 3-4 large mint sprigs

classic spa water

6 cups chilled still spring or mineral water • 12 thin slices cucumber
4 thin slices lemon • 4 sprigs fresh mint, slightly crushed
2 sprigs fresh rosemary, slightly crushed

1 In a jug, combine ingredients. **2** Serve, or cover and chill for at least 2 hours or up to 8 hours. Add ice cubes just before serving.



mango lassi

Mango lassi is a cool and refreshing drink and if you do not have fresh mango, tinned mango will not make any difference to the delicious end result!

1 cup/250ml plain yoghurt • ½ cup/125ml coconut milk
1 cup/approx 1 large ripe mango, peeled and chopped
a dash of ground cardamom (do not omit the cardamom; it may be difficult to find but it is worth hunting down as it is essential to the final taste)

1 Whizz all the ingredients with a stick blender or in a liquidiser until very smooth, there should be no lumps. **2** Pour into serving containers/glasses. Chill before serving. **3** Can be made well ahead of time. **4** Sprinkle a little ground cardamom on top before serving.

MAKES APPROX 500ML



mango sorbet pops

1 litre mango • sorbet ice pop containers

- 1** Soften mango sorbet slightly with a spoon and “squish” into ice pop containers
- 2** Refreeze until firm. **3** Serve on ice as a refreshing summer treat!

spa skewers

Either chicken or pastrami can be substituted for the ham and turkey or if you wish to increase the variety, include these as well.

120g shaved ham • 120g shaved turkey • 16 cherry tomatoes
1 English cucumber • 16 bamboo skewers

- 1** Use a potato peeler to cut long ribbons of cucumber. **2** Skewer the cucumber, ham and cherry tomato onto the skewer. **3** Garnish with fresh herbs such as mint or flat-leaf parsley and serve. **4** Skewers can be made ahead of time, covered and refrigerated until serving.

SERVES 8



tandoori chicken pitas with cucumber & mint raita

4-6 large chicken breasts • 1 packet tandoori chicken cook-in sauce
1 cup yoghurt • mini pita pockets to serve

FOR THE RAITA

1 cucumber, grated • 4-5 sprigs mint, finely chopped • 2 cups yoghurt

- 1** Preheat the oven to 220°C and place the chicken in an ovenproof dish. **2** Mix the tandoori sauce with the yoghurt and pour over the chicken. **3** Bake for 20-30 minutes until cooked through, remove from the oven and allow to cool completely. **4** While the chicken is cooking, make the raita by combining all the ingredients in a bowl. **5** To serve, slice the chicken, fill the pita pockets and top with the raita.

SERVES 8



spa schedule

Use the printable schedule setup times for each guest at each spa station. This way everyone is assured they will have a turn and there is order to the proceedings.

pj party

Provide guests with matching satin nightgowns, or in the invitation, ask the girls to come already dressed in their favourite pyjamas and slippers.

fancy fans

Whilst guests arrive, plan an informal activity where the girls are each given a paper hand fan, and then take a few snapshots of them posing.



facial fun

One can hire a professional to do the spa treatments or the guests themselves can easily do these.

materials gentle facial cleanser
exfoliating scrub • face cloth • face mask/face moisturiser

directions **1** Remove all make-up and wash the face, neck and ears with a facial cleanser. **2** Using one's fingers, gently rub an exfoliating facial scrub in small circular motions all over the face. Make sure to focus on areas around the nose and forehead. **3** Fill a bowl with warm water and soak a washcloth in it. Ring out the cloth and then press it to the face. Repeat this 2-3 times. **4** Spread the face mask mixture evenly over the face and rinse after 5-10 minutes. **5** Smooth the moisturiser over the face and neck.



diy manis and pedis

materials nail clippers • nail polish remover • cotton swabs • nail file • cuticle cream • orange wood sticks • hand and nail cream • face cloth • clear nail polish
a selection of nail polishes and nail art products

directions **1** Start by removing old polish with the remover. **2** File nails to desired shape: a shortish nail, straight across the top with rounded edges. File your nails in one direction starting at the edges and moving towards the top. **3** Soak in soapy water for a few minutes to soften cuticles. **4** Dot cuticle cream on the cuticles and rub in. **5** Use an orange wood stick to push back cuticles. **6** Massage hands with hand lotion for extra moisture. **7** Wipe nails with a damp cloth. **8** Apply a base coat. Let dry for 1 minute. **9** Apply two coats of your favourite colour. Always apply polish by starting on the side of the nail, and cover the nail in three strokes, one on each side and one in the middle. **10** Apply a topcoat.



delightful dishes

Create embossed metal tin boxes to hold treats for your guests.

materials printable party circle tags • circle craft punch (optional) • glue stick
small paper boxes • aluminium foil tape • scissors • plastic spoon • xacto knife • pencil
Turkish delights

directions **1** Line up a piece of foil tape to cover the lid of a small paper box. The tape should be larger than the lid on all 4 sides. **2** Peel away the backing paper, and stick the tape strip to the lid. **3** Burnish the tape with the back of a plastic spoon until smooth. **4** Cut along the edges of the lid with a knife, cutting the excess tape away. **5** Burnish the edges of the foil so they will not be sharp. **6** Tape a printable party circle over the lid and trace a design firmly with pencil. **7** Lift the tracing template to see the design lightly embossed in the foil. **8** Trace over the tracing lines again, directly on the foil this time so they are etched more deeply. One can also draw a freehand pattern instead of sticking a party circle in the centre. **9** Fill the boxes with Turkish delights and/or other sweet treats.



shipwrecked shindig



Ahoy there mateys! A pirate party is a childhood must,
but such a shindig need not be restricted to boys only.
Get all the guys and girls involved for a movember
to remember.

november • chapter eleven





message in a bottle invitation

materials printable invitation • small glass bottles with corks • sand • small shells
skull stickers • twine • scissors • printable circle tag

directions **1** Fill an empty glass bottle with a little bit of sand and small seashells. **2** Print the invitation and fill in the party details. Roll the invitation into a tight tube and tie with twine. **3** Pop into the bottle and seal with the cork. **4** Tie a circle tag with twine to the top of the bottle and decorate the bottle with skull stickers.

alternative Print the treasure map printable on an A3 page. Cut up into A6-sized note cards. On the back write in the party details asking the guests to "come and hunt for the treasure". Place the piece of a map into an envelope and add a gold chocolate coin or two.



jagged bunting

materials printable party bunting • colour printer • 160gsm thick white printer paper
scissors • twine • tape

directions **1** Print out the letters required, for example, to spell HAPPY BIRTHDAY and a spacer to sit between HAPPY and BIRTHDAY. **2** Cut out the bunting, but specifically cut a jagged edge at the bottom of each flag. **3** Punch two holes, one in each top corner of the bunting. **4** Thread the twine through the holes, in order. **5** Tape the bunting to the wall, overhead or in front of a buffet table.

variations Make the bunting as above, only print the bunting on a very small scale, so as to make cake bunting. The garland is tied around two bamboo skewers or retro paper straws and pushed into the top of a cake as a topper.



found flag

Turn over an empty wooden crate to form the base of a raft. Print and cut out the printable party flag. Fasten to a wooden dowel stick with sticky tape. Stick the flag in the centre of the crate.



coconut centre

Fend off scurvy by decorating the centre of your table with fresh fruit. Think coconuts, pineapples, oranges and lemons. Display on top of fake grass squares with seashells and empty glass bottles.



pirate plates

Elevate paper partyware from plain to "piratey" with the printable party circle tags. Either use a circle craft punch or cut out the tags and stick with paper glue to the centre of paper plates and to the side of paper cups.



tags and toppers

Punch a hole at the top and bottom of a printable circle tag and thread through retro stripe straws, or stick with sticky tape to toothpicks to make food flags. Print the printable bag toppers and staple over the top of cellophane bags filled with treasure.



menu

PIRATE PUFFS

PARROT WINGS AND PEG LEGS

OCTOPUS SPAGHETTI

TREASURE MAP BROWNIES

pirate puffs

6 cups Rice Crispie cereal • 1 bag marshmallows
15g/1 tablespoon butter • 400g frosting
red food colouring • black food colouring

1 Spray a piece of baking paper and a round or oval shaped cookie cutter with non-stick cooking spray. **2** Melt the butter in a large pot, add the marshmallows and stir until melted. **3** Add the cereal to the melted marshmallows and stir. **4** Using a greased spoon, scoop up spoonfuls of the sticky mixture and press into the cookie cutter to form the face. **5** Repeat until you have used all the mixture. **6** Allow to cool before icing. **7** Colour a few tablespoons of the icing black, and the remaining icing red. **8** Pipe the bandana in red and, using a clean piping bag or plastic sandwich bag with the end snipped off, pipe the pirate's face and eye patch.

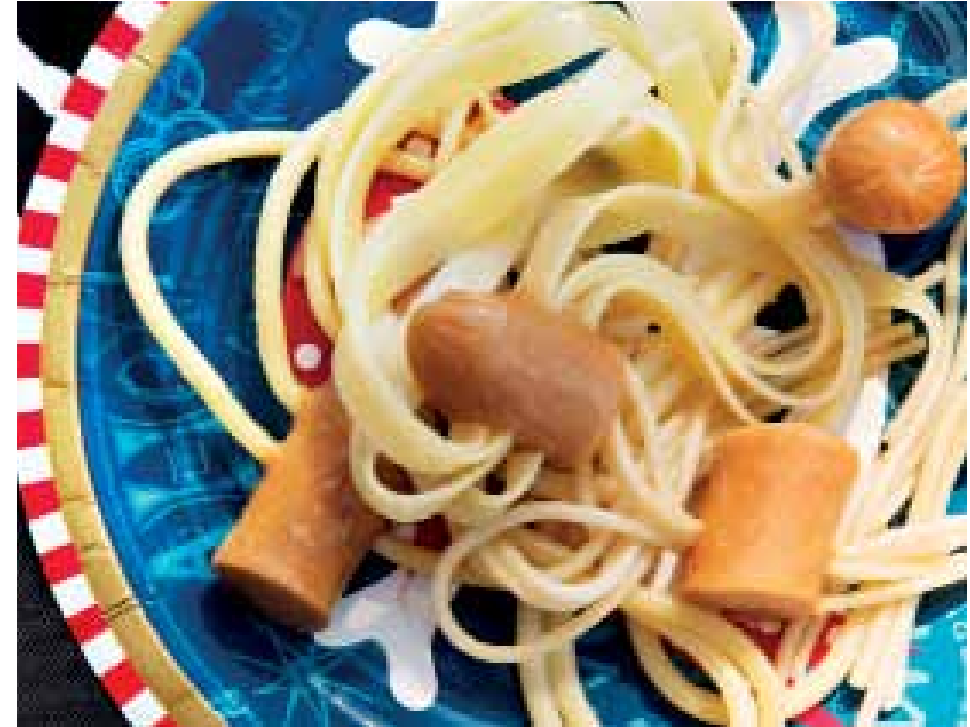


parrot wings & peg legs

60ml /4 tablespoons tomato sauce • 60ml/4 tablespoons BBQ sauce
 60ml/4 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
 60ml/4 tablespoons dark brown sugar (demerara or muscavado)
 30ml mustard, American or Dijon
 8 chicken drumsticks and 8 chicken wings

1 Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl and marinate for 2 hours or overnight.
2 Preheat the oven to 200°C. **3** Place chicken with marinade on a baking tray and cook for 30-40 minutes, turning once or twice to prevent sticking, until golden brown and cooked through. Serve.

SERVES 8



octopus spaghetti

450g spaghetti or linguine, broken in half
 8 Vienna sausages, cut into 6 pieces each

1 Bring a large pot of salted water to the boil. **2** Thread the spaghetti through each hot dog piece, about 6 pieces will fit. **3** Cook a few at a time in the boiling water for approx 6 minutes, scoop out with a slotted spoon. Drain and serve.

SERVES 8



treasure map brownies

1 packet chocolate brownie mix • 200g white fondant icing
icing sugar or cornflour for dusting • edible markers

1 Make brownies according to packet instructions. **2** Thinly roll out the fondant icing. **3** Cut the brownies into pieces and cut pieces of fondant icing to fit; roughly tear the edges and curl the ends of the icing to look like a scroll. **4** Place onto each brownie square and, with the edible marker, draw a map, marking various landmarks such as a tree and water.

MAKES APPROX 12



get the gold

A prerequisite for every pirate party must be a treasure hunt. With the party printables this activity is easily achieved by printing out the treasure map and wooden signs to "name" each area of the hunting ground. The X marks the spot for you to bury your treasure of choice. Give each guest a goodie bag and they are good to go.



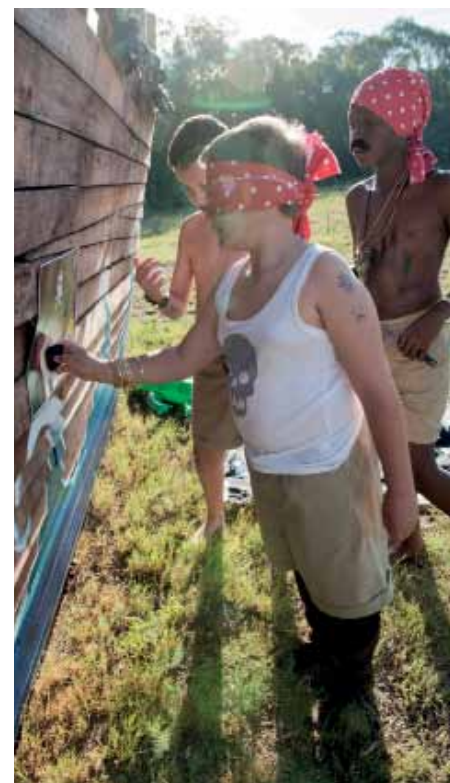
say arrr!

Have a backdrop (peg a tablecloth/ piece of fabric to string tied between two trees) and provide the kids with the printed party props: hats, eye patches, swords etc and take lots of action photos. The photos make great extras in thank you cards or simply email to everyone afterwards.



cannon ball crush

Fasten black paper chains to an inflated black balloon (cannon ball) and tie to each guest's ankle with ribbon. The aim of the game is to try to "explode" the other pirates' cannon balls without having your own popped. The winner is the only one with their balloon still intact.



pin the patch

Here's a pirate twist on the traditional "pin the tail on the donkey" party game. Print out the printable poster and tape onto a wall. Cut out the printable patches and stick tape/prestik to the back of each one. Blindfold your pirates, spin them around three times, and have them attempt to place a patch on the pirate's eye. The closest to the eye wins.



treasure toss

Set up a series of treasure chests: wooden boxes or metal buckets at different distances and assign a point value to each one. Line the pirates up and give each a set number of plastic gold coins. The goal of the game is to get as many points as possible by tossing the coins into the containers.



boat bail out

Your pirate ship is sinking! Bail it out by having the pirates scoop cupfuls of water from the boat and run to another empty container to dump the water in. The first pirate to fill up his own container with water wins the game. Use a bucket for the "boat" and paper cups for scooping.



walk the plank

Place a wooden board on top of two buckets. Use paint or black refuse bin stickers to make the words "WALK THE PLANK". Get the guests to "walk the plank" without falling into the "shark-infested water". Challenge your pirates to walk the plank forwards, backwards or sideways without falling into the water. Make older guests wear an eye patch or blindfold them to make the party game more difficult.



bandit buffet

Set up a dress-up area, so that as guests arrive they can dress the part. Suggestions include:

- Bandanas – Tear red fabric into triangular strips to make headscarves.
- Face paint – Draw on moustaches, scars and for the daring, "Jack Sparrow" dark eyes.
- Fake moustaches
- Jewellery – Repurpose old gold costume jewellery
- Temporary tattoos





sunken sweets

Half the fun to be had at a Pirate Party is to find the treasure. Therefore, irrespective of what party favours you choose to buy or make, be sure to give each guest an empty goodie bag, and they can then hook their favours themselves.

materials small blow-up pool • large bucket or crate • goodie bags • treasures
ribbon for loops • dowel stick with hook: wire hanger hook taped on the end

directions **1** Wrap little treasures inside packets, as many as there are guests. **2** Tie ribbons around each one with sturdy bows that will allow the players to “hook” them with the pole. **3** Fish for treasures and share the delights.

good idea Decorate plain paper or clear cellophane packets with the printable party favour tags and add a ribbon loop to the top of each one.



the nutcracker suite



It is christmas eve, invite family and friends, young and old to gather in the living room to decorate a beautiful christmas tree in preparation for the night's festivities. Play a march on the drum and hand out presents to put on a play. And whilst the tale of the nutcracker starts to unfold, let your guests travel to the land of sweets...

december • chapter twelve





cracker invitation

materials printable cracker template • printable party invitation • printable patterned paper • scissors • empty toilet paper roll • paper glue • ribbon • small treats

directions **1** Print the printable cracker, printable party invitation and patterned paper band, and cut out. **2** Fold the extra paper at the top of the cracker down over zigzag ends, and fold the extra paper at the bottom up. Leaving paper folded, cut along lines. Unfold paper and construct cracker. **3** Lay toilet paper roll at the top centre of paper. **4** Wrap the paper around the roll, and seal with a thin line of glue. Let dry. **5** Place a piece of ribbon around perforations on one end of cracker, gather and tie off. Fill roll with the printable party invitation and sweets. Repeat with ribbon on other end. **6** Glue patterned paper to centre of cracker.



sweet dreams letter banner

materials printable party letters • scissors • twine • needle • tape

directions **1** Print and cut out the “SWEET DREAMS” letters. **2** Pierce two holes at the top of each letter and thread the twine through. **3** Tape the garland to your entrance to welcome your guests to the Dreamland.

all-green wreath

materials oasis wreath • green leaves • secateurs • 2m red ribbon

directions **1** Using secateurs, cut the green stems 10 to 15cm in length. **2** Working your way from the bottom of the wreath to the top, one way and then the other, push in the stems. **3** Soak the wreath in water. **4** Tie a red ribbon to the top of the wreath and fasten to your door.

good idea A wreath can hang on a door by pushing in a pin on the top of the door and having the ribbon/twine hanging down.



carnation comeback

Create an ombré wreath of flowers by arranging carnations in shades of reds and pinks in an oasis ring. This is placed in the the table centre with a large lit gold pillar candle.



shimmer and shine

Dim the lights, and set a side table with an arrangement of all different shapes and sizes of metallic candlesticks, candle holders and votives.



who am I?

For place settings, instead of writing only your guests' names on the place cards, consider writing stage names for each – write a famous person's name in each card. Each guest must then try to explain to the other guests who they are without saying their actual name. The guest who guesses the most correct wins a small prize.



pop places

Satin napkins trimmed with vintage ribbon are given a playful touch with a pink and white striped candy cane.

starlight

No Christmas scene is complete without a tree. Decorate the boughs with baubles, stars and ornaments as part of the evening's festivities. Even simple ribbon bows in all different patterns can be tied to the fir branches for a pretty tree.



menu

MERRY BERRY BUBBLY

SOUP WITH CAVIAR STAR CROUTONS

NON-ALCOHOLIC EGGNOG

PRETTY PEPPERMINT BARK

CANDY CANE COOKIES

MINI XMAS MINCE COOKIES

merry berry bubbly

For the adults, substitute the sparkling juice for the real thing!

1 pomegranate, juiced and a few pips reserved
rose syrup (available from specialist delis and food shops)
1 bottle sparkling grape juice

- 1** Pour a little pomegranate juice and 1 teaspoon of rose syrup into each glass.
- 2** Top with the sparkling grape juice; be careful when pouring in the juice as it will fizz up.
- 3** Garnish with dried roses and a few pomegranate seeds.
- 4** Serve immediately.

SERVES 6-8



soup with caviar star croutons

2 whole baby cauliflowers or 1 large one broken into florets
 1 heaped tablespoon grain mustard • 50g butter • 1 medium onion, peeled and chopped • 2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed • 1 large potato, peeled and cubed
 1 litre vegetable or light chicken stock • 2 bay leaves
 200ml crème fraîche • salt and freshly ground black pepper

FOR THE CROUTONS

2 thick slices white bread • 50g butter, melted
 2 teaspoons red caviar/lumpfish • 2 teaspoons black caviar/lumpfish

1 Melt the butter in a large, deep saucepan. Add the onion and garlic and fry until soft, but do not let them colour. **2** Boil the cauliflower and potato in stock, in a covered pan, for 6-8 minutes until almost tender. **3** Add the bay leaves to the onion and garlic, then add the cauliflower and potato and its cooking water. Bring to a boil and add salt. **4** Cover and simmer for 15 minutes until the vegetables are truly soft. **5** Remove the pan from the heat, discard the bay leaves and allow the soup to cool slightly. Then in 2 batches, purée the soup in a blender or food processor. **6** Pour the mixture back into the pan, stir in the crème fraîche, grain mustard and a grinding of black pepper. **7** Meanwhile to make the croutons, cut the bread into star shapes using a cookie cutter, brush with melted butter and place on a baking tray in a hot oven for 8-10 minutes until golden and crispy. Remove from oven, cool and top with caviar. **8** Ladle the soup into warm bowls, top with star croutons.

SERVES 6



non-alcoholic eggnog

2 cups milk • ¼ cup sweetened condensed milk
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon • 5 whole cloves • 4 egg yolks
½ cup granulated sugar • 1 cup heavy whipping cream
1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg, plus more for garnish
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 Combine milk, cloves, cinnamon and condensed milk over low heat in a deep saucepan until the mixture is heated through. Slowly increase the heat to medium and bring the mixture to a low boil. Be careful not to allow a rolling boil. **2** In a medium bowl, combine the eggs and sugar. Beat eggs using a stand mixer, electric mixer or your hands until pale and fluffy. **3** Slowly temper the eggs by adding the hot milk mixture about 1 tablespoon at a time. Once enough of the milk mixture is in the egg mixture, pour it all back into the saucepan. Heat over medium heat for 3-5 minutes, stirring frequently, until thickened. You will know it's thick when you can leave a clean line on the back of a spoon. **4** Add the heavy whipping cream, nutmeg and vanilla extract to the mixture and heat through. Do not bring to a boil. **5** Strain the mixture using a fine mesh strainer to catch the spices. Place in an airtight container in the refrigerator and let cool for at least an hour, preferably longer. Serve cold. Garnish with additional grated nutmeg if desired. Enjoy!

SERVES 2



pretty pink peppermint bark

This pretty confectionary makes a great gift, wrapped in clear cellophane or displayed in a glass jar. No Christmas mantlepiece is complete without it.

350g white chocolate chips or disks (approx 2 cups)
a few drops pink food colouring
8 peppermint candy canes, pink or red and white if possible

1 Melt the chocolate in a double boiler or in the microwave. **2** While the chocolate is melting, pop the candy canes into a ziploc bag and using a rolling pin, crush the sweets into coarse pieces. **3** Add a few drops of food colouring to the chocolate and stir to colour. **4** Pour the chocolate onto a greased silicone mat and allow to cool slightly. **5** Scatter the peppermint pieces over the chocolate and allow to cool completely. **6** Break into pieces when cold. **7** Serve. **8** Bark can be made up to a week ahead of time and will keep if stored in an airtight container.

MAKES ENOUGH FOR 1 MEDIUM JAR



candy cane biscuits

1 quantity sugar cookie biscuit dough • pink food colouring

1 Divide the biscuit mixture in half and colour one half with the pink food colouring. **2** Roll both pieces of biscuit dough into logs and cut into equal pieces. **3** Roll each piece into a thin sausage shape. **4** Plait or twist one plain piece of dough with one pink piece of dough. **5** Shape into a cane shape and bake in a preheated oven at 180°C for 15-20 minutes.



mini xmas mince pies

1 jar fruit mince • 2 teaspoons/10ml brandy (optional)
juice and zest of 1 orange • shortcrust pastry • 1 egg, beaten

1 Preheat oven to 180°C and grease a mini muffin tin. **2** Mix the brandy, orange juice and zest into the fruit mince. **3** Roll out the pastry and use a fluted cutter to cut out circles; use your fingers to gently work the pastry into the muffin tins. **4** Fill with a tablespoon of fruit mince. **5** Top with little stars cut out of pastry or if you don't have a star cutter, crumble a little pastry onto each pie. **6** Brush with beaten egg and bake for 15-20 minutes until golden brown. **7** Remove from oven, allow to cool and serve dusted with icing sugar. **8** Mince pies will keep for 2 weeks in an airtight container and can be frozen for 1 month.



tell the tale

Print out the printable poster telling the tale of The Nutcracker. Roll the page into a scroll and tie with ribbon. After dinner, sit all the guests down for story time and start to read the story.

name that carol

Make a list of lyrics from Christmas carols that only provides 3-4 words from each song (not the title). For example "come they told me" would be the carol The Little Drummer Boy. The person who names all – or the most – of the songs in a certain amount of time wins.



masquerade ball

The printable party masks of Clara, The Nutcracker, The Mouse King and The Sugar Plum Fairy are easy to make in minutes. Cut out along the dotted lines. Punch or cut out the eye centres and fasten a paper straw with tape on the one end.

put on a play

Continue to read the story, prompting the guests to re-enact the scenes from the story as you go along.



only one

Pause during the reading just after the part where Clara opens her gift from under the Christmas tree. Encourage guests at this time to also look under the tree and to select one gift to open. Inside the gift boxes include dress up outfits and/or the printable party masks.

30 SECONDS®

Print and cut out the printable playing cards. Have everyone sit in a circle and ask one guest to pick up a playing card. Within 30 seconds, this guest must then, without saying the actual words on the card, give clues to help the other guests guess all 5 words. The more words the guests guess, the more sweets they win: one sweet for each correct answer.



charades

On the printable party place cards, write down popular films, TV shows, books etc. and play the compulsory Christmas game of charades – an acting game in which one player acts out the word or phrase, often by miming similar-sounding words, and the other players in his team guess the word or phrase. The idea is to use physical rather than verbal language to convey the meaning to the other party.



sweet stockings

materials printable party stockings • colour printer • 160gsm white printer paper
scissors • sewing machine • sweets and treats • clothes pegs • ribbon

directions **1** Print the printable stockings, both front and back. **2** Cut out and place wrong sides together. **3** Using a sewing machine, sew the stocking together all the way around except for the top. **4** Fill the stocking with sweets and treats. **5** Peg the stockings to ribbon strung up in front of the (unlit) fireplace.

up, up and away

in good company shop Compass, Peg Doll Kit, Twine, Washi Tape, Giant Polka Dot Balloons, Russian Doll, Meri Meri Toot Sweet Pink Paper Cups and Plates, Retro Paper Straws, Sambellina Paper Cake Plates and Treat Boxes, Wooden Cutlery, Paper Eskimo Party Hats, Animal Crayons, Polka Dot Balloons, Nesting Suitcases, Polka Dot Napkins, Popcorn Boxes, Cake Candles, Mouli Roty Toys, Books, Wonderball, Magic Beans

in good company hire Eiffel Tower, Taxi Cab, Glass Bottles on Tray, Glass Jars

woolworths Cut Flowers, Food Colouring, Shooter Glasses, Felt-Tip Pens, Sterri Stumpies, Jelly, Popcorn, Chocolate, Cupcakes, Marshmallows

florist Baskets, Oasis, Helium

typo Vintage Map, Globes

craft or scrapbooking store Scalloped Circle Punch

downloadable templates to print
www.forgoodtimes.co.za

Fill-In Invitation
Bookmarks
Flags
Party Circle Tags
Tented Place Cards
Treats Sign
Badges
Book Plates
Thank You Luggage Tags

bonus printables
Swallowtail Bunting A to Z and a Spacer
Door Sign
SIPS Sign

Paris bistro

party venue ABBEY GUEST HOUSE, Abbey Road, Craighall Park
www.abbeyguesthouse.co.za

in good company shop Paris Map Pin Board, Wooden Dolly Pegs, Chalkboard Paint, Washi Tape, Meri Meri Paris Plates, Cups, Napkins and Cupcake Kit, Mydrap Napkins on a Roll, Maileg Tins, Emma Bridgewater Tea Caddy, Ceramic Pates, Café Glasses, Plastic Cutlery, Chalkboard Tags, Retro Paper Straws, Child's Baking Set, Wooden Spoons, Red Retro Spot Nesting Suitcases, Ribbon, Twine, Sambellina Treat Boxes, Pearl Garland, Macaron Lipgloss, Clear Cellophane Bags

in good company hire Glass Bell Jar, Ceramic Cake Stand, Glass Jam Jars

hardware Paint Brush, Chalk

woolworths Roses, Wicker Tray, Tea Towels

downloadable templates to print
www.forgoodtimes.co.za

Invitation and Envelope
Door Sign
Swallowtail Bunting A to Z and Spacer
Party Circle Tags
Vintage Place Setting Placemat
Numbered Note Cards 1 to 10
Thank You Favour Tags
Eiffel Tower Bag Toppers
Parisian House Treat Box Cover

bonus printables
Cupcake Wrappers
Patterned Paper
Tented Place Cards

early bird breakfast

party venue THE FOURWAYS FOOD MARKET, Corner of William Nicol and Monte Casino Boulevard, Fourways, www.ffmarket.co.za

in good company Petersham Ribbon, Divine Twine, Greengate Fake Eggs, Pip Studio Tableware, Luna Porcelain Ceramic Birds, Sass and Belle Ceramic Tree Trunk Bowl, Ceramic Bird Dish, Ginger Melamine Cutlery, Ceramic Tumbler, White Cake Stand, Berry Basket, Rounders Bat (Lawn Game), Retro Paper Straws

in good company for hire Glass Bell Jar, Bird Cages

earth living nursery Terracotta Pots, Potted Plants

@home Glass Jugs, Maxwell and Williams Dinner Plates, Platter

florist Feathers, Feather Birds, Bird Nests, Satin Flowers, Real Cut Flowers, Brown Boxes, Raffia

hardware Paint, Wooden Pegs

downloadable templates to print
www.forgoodtimes.co.za

- Crack Me Open Invitation Tags
- Bird and Egg Motifs
- Place Card Tags
- Buffet Labels
- Party Circles
- Bird Masks

bonus printables

- Door Sign
- Swallowtail Bunting A to Z and a Spacer
- Patterned Paper
- Bird House Favour Box
- Thank You Favour Tags

fool the crowd

location NINA SAY CHEESE STUDIO, www.ninasaycheese.com

in good company Ceramic Bunnies, Red Cardboard Nesting Suitcases, Twine, Paper Packet, Paper Cups, Plates and Napkins, Star Paper Straws, Star Chalkboard Tags, Petersham Ribbon, Playing Cards, Magic 8 Ball, Sweet Style Glass Cake Stand, Riddleys House of Novelties Magic Tricks, Fake Moustaches, Plastic Popcorn Cup, Maileg Rabbit in a Hat

in good company for hire Star Runners, Sequined Top Hats, Metal Buckets

flowerspot Top Hat, Gerbera Flowers

woolworths Marshmallows, Popcorn, Spices

sweet shop Candy Floss

downloadable templates to print
www.forgoodtimes.co.za

- Invitation
- Admission Tickets
- Arrow Signs
- Poster
- Swallowtail Bunting
- Place Cards
- Placemat
- Party Circles
- Water Bottle Labels
- Popcorn Boxes
- Pattern Paper for Cones
- Magic Tricks
- Bag of Tricks
- Favour Tags

bonus printables

- Photo Booth Props
- Thank You Cards

sip, dip and chip cantina

location HADEDA, 151 Jan Smuts Avenue, Parkwood, Johannesburg, 2193
www.hadedashop.com

in good company shop Twine, Tissue Paper Pom Poms, Paper Daisies, Ribbon, Wooden Cutlery, RICE Tiered Metal Stand and Melamine Plates, My Little Day Paper Plates and Cups, Glass Bottles, Heart Chalkboard, Paper Eskimo Sweet Jar Labels, Chevron Cupcake Liners, Retro Paper Straws, Stirrer Sticks, Alphabet Rubber Stamps, Ceramic Jam Jar, Sweet Cellophane Packets, Water Balloons, Bubbles, Pin the Tail Donkey Game, Wooden Pegs, Chevron Sweet Paper Packets

in good company hire Red Tablecloth, Chevron Table Napkins, White Wooden Letters, Enamel Jugs, Drinking Tumblers, Glass Jars, Ceramic Bowls, Polaroid Camera and Film, Galvanised Bucket

hadedda Frida Kahlo Magnet and Painting, Cushions, Gold Candle Wings, Papel Picado, Heart Wall Sign, Tile Coasters, Painted Pots, Knitted Puppets

woolworths Lemons, Limes, Nacho Chips, Jelly Beans, Ice Cream, Sugar Cones, Wafer Sticks, Sprinkles, Smarties, Roses, Sunflowers, Candles

craft SHOP Wool, Easels

downloadable templates to print
www.forgoodtimes.co.za

Fill-In Invitation

bonus printables

Door Sign
Swallowtail Bunting A to Z and a Spacer
Party Circle Tags
Tented Place Cards
Thank You Favour Tags

right royal romp

in good company shop Retro Paper Straws, Gold Porcelain Paper Plates, Cups and Napkins, MYDRAP Cotton Napkins, Twine

in good company hire Damask Gold Table Runners, Silver Tiered Stand, Silver Pillar Candle Holders, Silver Candelabra, Gold Charger Plates, Bocce

woolworths Toy Trumpet, Red Dinner and Pillar Candles, Sourdough Bread, Gold Chocolate Coins, Cut Flowers

florist Wheat Bushels

hardware Gold Spray Paint, Thick Rope

fabric store Hessian Cloth for Table Cover, Silver Velvet for Tunics, Purple Velvet for Fabric Bags

TOYS R US Tambourine, Recorder, Archery Set, Pool Noodles, Hobby Horses

mr price home Purple Tassel Curtain Tiebacks, Plastic Fruit, Silver Edged Vases and Votives

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www.forgoodtimes.co.za

Fill-In Scroll Invitation
Swallowtail Bunting A to Z and a Spacer
Banners for Trumpet
Throne Reserved Sign
Party Circle Tags
Straw Flags
Wine Glass Lampshades
Paper Crowns
Paper Shields
Poster: Bocce
Ye Old Stocks Photo Booth Poster

hoedown throw down

party venue IRENE DAIRY FARM www.irenefarm.co.za

in good company shop Twine, Ribbon, Meri Meri Cowboy Paper Cups, Plates, Napkins, Garland, Wall Stickers, Chalkboard Star Tags, Chalkboard Place Cards, Wooden Cutlery, Retro Paper Straws, Clear Cellophane Packets, Dolly Wooden Pegs, Playing Cards, Hip Flask, Fool's Gold, Sheriff Badge

in good company hire Enamel Plates and Mugs, Galvanised Bucket, Glass Bottles, Lanterns, Wooden Frames, White Cake Stands, Glass Footed Bowl

woolworths Apples, Water Bottles, Soft Drinks, Ginger Beer, Aluminium Foil Plates, Gold Chocolate Coins

hardware Stones, Gold Spray Paint

toys r us Rubber Snakes, Spiders, Cowboy Hats, Hobby Horses, Water Pistols, Play Sand

schleich Toy Cowboy, Horse and Fence Figurines, www.schleich-s.com

nursery Cacti, Succulents

fabric store Fabric, Pinking Shears

downloadable templates to print
www.forgoodtimes.co.za

Fill-In Invitation
WANTED Poster
Party Circle Tags
Bottle Wrappers
Signs: The Watering Hole
Smores Station Labels
Patterned Paper

bonus printables
Door Sign
Swallowtail Bunting A to Z and a Spacer
Tented Place Cards
Chip Cone Packets
Food Box Labels
Lawn Picks
T-Shirt Transfers
Indian Head Dress
Cookie Jar Labels

alpine camp out

in good company Compass, Petersham Ribbon, Polka Dot Nesting Suitcase, Wooden Cutlery, Daisy Lids and Jam Jars, Retro Striped Paper Straws, Cellophane Packets, Twine, Dolly Pegs, Metal Torch

in good company hire Wooden Crate, Glass Bottles, Metal Buckets, Enamel Mugs, Glass Bottles, White Tablecloth

woolworths Bamboo Skewers, Marshmallows, Lindt Chocolate, Strawberries, Cut Flowers, Apples, Pretzels, Peanuts and Raisins, Smarties, Berry Gumdrops, Sticky Tape

hardware Nails, Dowel Sticks, Metal Lanterns, Rope

schleich Fox and Deer Toy Figurines, www.schleich-s.com

cath kidston Cottage Tent, www.cathkidston.co.uk

ikea Sheepskin, www.ikea.com

downloadable templates to print
www.forgoodtimes.co.za

Invitation
Door Sign
Swallowtail Bunting A to Z and a Spacer
Animal Silhouettes
Party Circle Tags
Cutlery Wrappers
Scout Badges
My Nature Trail Book Cover
Swiss Flag
Animal Masks
Night Time Shadows
Chocolate Wrappers

bonus printables
Favour Tags

born free baby shower

party venue THE BIG RED BARN, Corner of Nelson Road and Glen Road, Sunlawns AH, Olifantsfontein, www.thebigredbarn.co.za

in good company shop Retro Stripe Pens, Petersham Ribbon, Baker's Twine, Ceramic Canister, Ceramic Mini Milk Bottle, Ceramic White Scalloped Cake Stand, Wooden Alphabet Blocks, Chalkboard Paint, Magpie: Paper Plates, Cups, Mugs, Nesting Suitcases, Polka Dot Paper Napkins, Wooden Cutlery, Washi Tape, Retro Paper Straws, Beehive Glass Dispenser, Ceramic Giraffe Head, Monkey Cocktail Drink Decorations, Paper Eskimo: Yellow Stripe Paper Cups, Paper Plates, Paper Sweet Labels, Tala Animal Cookie Cutters, Jungle Plastic Lolly Makers, Yellow Polka Dot Muffin Cups, Clear Cellophane Packets, Heart Stickers, Vintage Affair Kraft Luggage Tags, Wooden Colour Pencils, Happy Jackson Mints, Yellow Paper Packets

in good company hire Wooden Crates, Glass Bottles, Glass Sweet Jars

elephant sculpture by artist Andries Botha, www.andriesbotha.net

woolworths Fynbos, Bamboo Skewers, Liquorice Allsorts, Peppermint Crisp, Chappies, Wilson Toffees, Nik Naks, Jelly Tots, Chomps, Jelly Babies

hardware Paint Brush, Hot Glue Gun, Small Magnets, Chalk

schleich Animal Figurines, www.schleich-s.com

freshly found Paper Proteas, www.freshlyfound.com

designkist Zoo Biscuit Wallpaper, www.designkist.com

downloadable templates to print
www.forgoodtimes.co.za

Fill-In Invitation
Party Circle Tags
What's The Baby Animal Baby Shower Game Cards
Bingo Cards

bonus printables

Door Sign
Swallowtail Bunting A to Z
and a Spacer
Baby's First ABC Book
Number Circle Tags
Unscramble The Words
Note Cards
Wishes for Baby
Nursery Rhyme Fill in the Word
Thank You Luggage Tags

sugar and spice day spa

in good company shop White Paper Fans, Chinese Paper Lanterns, LED Tea Lights, Silver Tiered Stands, Paper Cups, Retro Paper Straws, Ribbon, Twine

in good company hire Lotus Flower Votives, Glass Jars, Fake Lilies

woolworths Chocolates, Turkish Delight, Water Bottles, Face Cloth, Liquid Soap, Soap, Manicure Kit, Nail Polish Remover, Nail Polish, Facial Cleanser, Facial Moisturiser, Cotton Swabs, Yoghurt, Oranges, Cucumbers, Powdered Milk, Embroidered Cushion, Plastic Spoon, Rose Petals

health store Bath Crystals, Sea Salts, Lavender, Oatmeal, Lemongrass, Cornmeal

fabric store Satin Fabric, Cushion Inners, Muslin

hardware Aluminium Tin Foil, Xacto Knife

stationery store Small Paper Gift Boxes, Pencil

downloadable templates to print
www.forgoodtimes.co.za

Fill-In Invitation
Envelope
Menu Cards
Party Circle Tags
Tented Place Cards
Paper Cup Wrappers
Beauty Bar Sign
Schedule
Water Bottle Wrappers
No Boys Allowed Door Hanger
Butterflies

bonus printables

Patterned Paper
Bag Toppers
Glass Charms
Recipe Cards
Cake Template
Note Cards
No Boys Allowed Door Sign
Swallowtail Bunting A to Z and a Spacer

shipwrecked shindi

party venue THE BIG RED BARN, Corner of Nelson Road and Glen Road, Sunlawns AH, Olifantsfontein, www.thebigredbarn.co.za

in good company shop Twine, Ribbon, Stickers, Sambellina Paper Cups, Plates, Wooden Cutlery, Balloons, Meri Meri Paper Plates, Cups, Ice Cream Tubs, Cupcake Kit, Favour Bags, Face Paint, Fake Moustaches, Tattoos, FRED Fish Bowls, Gold Coins, Pirate Pencil Toppers

in good company hire Fabric Stripe Table Runners, Wooden Crate, Glass Bottles, Grass Squares, Tin Buckets

diy report Sand, Dowel Sticks, Plastic Buckets, Wooden Plank, Black Stick-On Letters

woolworths Gold Chocolate Coins, Pineapples, Coconuts, Lemons, Limes, Lifesavers, Palm Trees, Glass Bottles, Bamboo Skewers, Gold Costume Jewellery

downloadable templates to print
www.forgoodtimes.co.za

- Invitation
- Door Sign
- Swallowtail Bunting A to Z and a Spacer
- Placemat
- Pirate Ship Flag
- Party Circle Tags
- Bottle Wrappers
- Pin The Patch Poster
- Treasure Map and Treasure Hunt Signs
- Photo Booth Props
- Favour Bag Tags And Toppers

bonus printables
Patterned Paper
Placemat
Cake Toppers and Cupcake Wrappers

the nutcracker suite

party venue ABBEY GUEST HOUSE, 7 Abbey Drive, Craighall Park, Johannesburg, www.abbeyguesthouse.co.za

in good company shop Baker's Twine, Petersham Ribbon, Candy Canes, Lollipops, Meri Meri Nutcracker Paper Cupcake Kit, Garland, Plates, Gift Tags, Secateurs, Christmas Tree Decorations, Mince Pie Paper Food Picks, Wooden Toy Soldier, Retro Style Paper Straws, Maileg Mice, Face Paint, Crayons, Rhinestone Tiara, Greengate Christmas Bell Ornament

in good company hire Glass Sweet Jars

woolworths Jelly Beans, Almonds, Nougat, Heart Gum Sweets, Carnations, Gold Pillar and Dinner Candles

flowerspot Covered Gift Boxes, Foam Wreath, Florist's Wire

downloadable templates to print
www.forgoodtimes.co.za

- Fill-In Invitation
- Sweet Dreams Letter Garland
- Tented Place Cards
- Party Circle Tags
- Lollipop Mice
- The Nutcracker Story
- Masks: Clara, Nutcracker,
- Sugar Plum Fairy, Mouse King
- Stockings

bonus printables
Show Time Door Sign
Patterned Paper
Swallowtail Bunting A to Z and a Spacer
Thank You Favour Tags

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the party checklist

A step-by-step checklist of what needs to be done and when it needs to be done for just about any party.

4 weeks before

Finalise the date.
Plan initial guest list.
Decide on the theme and style of the party.
Consider venues, will your party fit the place?
Create a budget, then add on a 10% buffer.
Design invitations.

3 weeks before

Send out invitations.
Decide on the menu and beverages.
Make a shopping list and estimate costs.
Compare to your budget.

2 weeks before

Plan decor in detail and list possible sources.
Estimate decor costs and compare with budget.
Rent extra equipment or, if possible, borrow.

1 week before

Verify RSVP list. Call or send emails to non-replies.
Shop for decorations and non-perishable food items and beverages.
Call your florist and confirm items will be in stock or place an order.
Purchase favours.
Choose specific music to be played.

2 days before

Write down the schedule: what is the exact event plan, what food and drinks will you serve and when.
Buy the food.
Decide what you are going to wear, so as to avoid the "nothing to wear" disaster.

day before

If applicable, decide on seating arrangements – best left to do only now to take into account any cancellations.
Pick up flowers if you are doing the arrangements yourself.
Prepare all other decorations.
Set up the bar, and prepare as much of the food as possible.

party day

Create flower arrangements.
Buy ice and chill all bottled beverages that need to be served cold; 30+ minutes in an ice bath should do the trick.
Cook the rest of the food.
Get dressed and ensure everything is done, save for some last minute food preparation an hour before the party is to begin.
Put on some party music and pour yourself a drink. Welcome your guests!