BY CHRISTINA CURRIE

Savvy Celebrations

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Winter hot sangria with red apples, wine, cranberry, rosemary, and spices.

THEY SAY HUMAN CONNECTION is an energy exchange between people who are paying attention to one another. It has the power to deepen the moment, inspire change, and build trust. This human connection has looked different for all of us since March 2020. How do you keep the human energy connected during these challenging times and the holiday season? Whether you are hosting 2–50 guests, there are many creative ways to keep the energy high this holiday season. Here are a few suggestions to help get your Fa-La-La-la in style:

Impressions really do matter when it comes to your holiday party. It is a time to showcase a little originality while staying respectful of others' traditions and beliefs. Decorating your walkway and entrance allows your guests to feel excited about what's waiting for them inside. Decorative lanterns or hurricane lamps add the warm ambiance to anyone's front entrance.

Be innovative with your entertainment for your holiday gathering. Instead of starting your party vibe with holiday jazz music, think about a high-energy performance such as a colorful, rockstar-attitude violinists. They will raise the bar with fresh and flirty fun music. Don't be afraid to mix a variety of genres of holiday music. It will keep your event interesting and offer something for everyone to enjoy.

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Have a contest for who can name the country of origin for ornaments.

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Remind your guests to social distance and use hand sanitizer.

INDIVIDUALLY SERVED FOODS

Be creative with your menu planning. Select a few of your favorite savory and sweet dishes for your guests to enjoy. Anything from charcuteries to nacho plates, and for something sweet, a trio of mini crepes to chocolate charcuterie displays. To keep your guests safe, serve your food on mini individual boards and/or plates. For an added touch, serve your desserts in individual clear glass jewelry boxes. Everyone loves to see the beautiful art on desserts such as chocolates or bon bons. This will be a charming and sweet party favor for your guests. Be sure to insert a cute sign explaining your cuisine. Guests like to know what they are about to indulge.

FRESH AND FUN

Engage your guests with unique features added to your decor. Decorate your holiday tree with ornaments from around the world. You can create a game out of the tree by having your guests guess which country the ornaments represent.

Signature cocktails provide a festive vibe to your guests upon arrival to your party. Have a self-serve station with colorful glassware and cute garnishes with a personalized tag.

Personalize all the details! Keep all stationery cohesive from your invitations and place cards to gift tags.

Exquisite centerpieces are created with decorative elements such as candles and fresh flowers in interesting vases. Having full floral arrangements or a cluster of small vases with flowers will bring a fresh and festive look to your space. Add a small floral centerpiece to your bathrooms.

Bring back a bit of English tradition to your home with an afternoon High Tea. Invite 5-6 friends for individual platters of finger sandwiches, scones, and petit fours. Provide 2-3 varieties of tea. To top off the afternoon tea, pop the bubbles for an added holiday cheer! For an extra special touch, add decorative name cards and menus to each place setting.

Surprise your guests with holiday swag boxes. Add a few of your favorite sweet breads, teas, and a small hand sanitizer to the bags. Top off the box with an elegant ribbon and personalized gift tag. The small token that goes a long way!

Safety is first for you and your guests during this pandemic. Be sure to remind your guests about social distancing and to continue to sanitize their hands while at your party. Keep guest counts low to help minimize the spread of viruses.

As you celebrate the end of 2020, make sure to remember the medical care and other essential workers who are helping all of us. Take a moment to cheer them from afar.

Christina Currie is the founder and owner of Christina Currie Events. Celebrating 16 years in business, she has now expanded her services to Europe. Learn more at christinacurrieevents.com or call 224-558-1764.