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SUMMER ISSUE II 2014
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Our Secret Recipe for Summer Fun

Summertime always comes and goes so quickly, but the memories keep us laughing throughout the year. In this issue of *Outdoor Living*, we're setting the mood for an end-of-summer party and you're invited! From creative tablescaping

tips to a sweet sangria recipe, you might be able to convince summer to stay a little longer (we know your friends won't need any persuading). So join us in giving summer the proper send off with a little outdoor entertaining for you and your special guests.

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**Host
the Perfect,
Stress-Free
Summer Party**
(Ideas & Tips
Inside)

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Get Your Party On!

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Any day, all day, all summer long is the perfect time to take the party outside as the sun shines warmer, the days last longer, and friends are ready to mingle.

One of the highlights of summer is renewing acquaintances and meeting new friends in a relaxed outdoor setting, but if you're the host it's a lot more than fun and games. Hosting summer BBQs for a few or many friends, or even just your family, doesn't need to be a struggle. By taking a few simple steps to plan ahead, you can pull off the social event of the season while actually enjoying it yourself.

Here are some ideas to make this your best BBQ party season ever!

Pick a theme: It doesn't take much more effort to have theme-oriented parties like Wild West Oktoberfest, Marie Antoinette or Sushi and Slushies. Come up with your own clever theme; then pick table linens, dinnerware, and simple party décor to reflect your unique interpretation.

Plan Your Escape: Often everybody has a great time except for the host who is stuck in the kitchen refilling plates, grilling more hot dogs and finding the extra ketchup bottle. Plan a menu that lets you have fun as well. Do-it-yourself dinners like kabobs are perfect. Just cut up the pieces, set out the skewers, and then plan to relax by your outdoor grill and chat with your friends as they cook for themselves.

Divide and Conquer: If you have guests of all ages, set up sections in your yard for each. Set up a play center and blanket area for toddlers under a pergola in the backyard for a shaded, cool retreat while starting a croquet tournament for teens on your front lawn. That way not everyone is grouped around the grill making it hard for you to maneuver through the night.



Dare to be Different: Cook up some dishes that will be conversation starters themselves. Once you find a theme, go online and search out some corresponding recipes with a different twist. Maybe

choose chili with an unusual ingredient and then have a contest, letting guests guess what it is. The prize could be an extra pot to take home!

Whatever flare and flavor your summer parties take on, create the perfect setting for both you and your guests to enjoy. Your outdoor space can be functional and fun for all, all year long, so take the party outside and enjoy your friends, good food and fresh air.



Setting the Outdoor Table

Guest Writer Dottie Reynolds

Interior Designer/Owner of the store Casual Living/Blogger of Outdoorlicious.com

Dining outside may be considered casual but omitting table décor would be a mistake. On the contrary, taking the meal outside is a perfect excuse to try your hand at a more casual style of decorating and perhaps incorporating elements you wouldn't otherwise use.

There is often a scarcity of space on the table, so it's a good idea to keep the scale on the smaller side but make sure it has a big impact. Flowers from the yard are an instant hit and will beg the question, "Are these from your yard?" This is a great conversation starter and can generate lively dialog with interesting stories. A simple vase, mason jar, pitcher or teapot are a few container ideas. Bowls filled with floating flowers, either stretching in a line down the table or clustered together, are pretty and easily moved during dinner, if necessary.

Using fresh greenery from the yard is an inexpensive, creative, and fun way to decorate the outdoor table. Branches, leaves, acorns, berries, moss, and rocks are interesting additions to your tablescape. Palm fronds and other large leaves are a good foundation on which to layer décor. Herbs, used judiciously, are fresh and can lend themselves to the aromas of food being served.

If you are running short on table space, consider decorating the chairs instead. Make a garland or wreath with fresh finds and hang one on each chair. Or, tie a swath of fabric around the chair and weave a few flowers or leaves into the knot.

For evening, simply add candle light or solar powered lanterns into the mix. Small votives can be used singly or clustered on the tabletop. Lanterns lined up down the length of the table, or, again, clustered in the center of a round table, look striking at night.



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Engineering the Perfect Backyard for *An Active Family*

Once an engineer, always an engineer, or so it goes for Tony East of Redmond, Washington. Along with his love for designing and building things such as Microsoft programs, Tony is passionate about basketball, something he loves to play with his children, Kate and Patrick. When they both started excelling at sports-basketball included-it was time to put that engineering expertise to work by building a basketball court in their heavily-wooded, forest backyard. Since Tony and his wife Judy were looking to put in a basketball court, it made sense to throw a fire pit into the mix as well!

The first step was to design a platform for a regulation-size key and basketball hoop. Second was to make it attractive and not interfere with the beautiful outdoor setting of their yard. And the third was to somehow integrate this into their outdoor lifestyle of entertaining, relaxing and dining outside! No small challenge on any level.

Tony and Judy called System Pavers after a friend referred them to the company. Eager to take on this unique and fun challenge, System Pavers' Design Team embraced Tony's plan and made some suggestions of their own to make it highly functional as well as beautiful.



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video of this project, visit:**
<http://bit.ly/SystemPavers>
(case sensitive)

One design suggestion was extending the court's surface to a retaining wall with a protected fire pit and conversation area a few steps below, but in perfect position to see the action on the court. By picking out stones that complement the natural forest setting, and defining the shape of the basketball key in a contrasting color, the Easts now have a functional basketball court for their family and friends to enjoy and a place to sit back and relax.

"System Pavers helped expand my vision of the project and executed phenomenally, bringing the vision to reality," says Tony East. "The supervisor and crew were forward-thinking and thought of every detail before any problems could arise. From communications to post-project clean up, System Pavers was wonderful, and definitely a company I recommend to my friends."



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Go Green All *Year Long*

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System Pavers Recognized for the *Fourth Year in a Row!*



GuildQuality grants System Pavers the GuildMaster Award for the fourth year in a row. An award celebrating service excellence in the building, remodeling, contracting and home service industry, System Pavers graciously accepts the accolade for attaining a customer recommendation rate greater than 90%. "We're delighted to have received this recognition for the fourth year in a row, as it validates our commitment and continuous efforts to consistently serve our customers. It's the commitment of our people to be the best at what they do that ensures our continued success," said Larry Green, CEO at System Pavers.

www.GuildQuality.com/SystemPavers

Make the Most of *Your Wine!*

Courtesy of the California Wine Club

Use these temperature tips to bring out the best of your wine's fruit flavors.



For whites:

Take your bottle out of the fridge 10 minutes before enjoying.

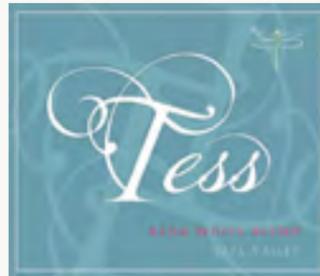
For reds:

Pop your bottle into the fridge for 10 minutes before enjoying.

To chill a white wine quickly:

Wrap the bottle with a wet paper towel and put it in the freezer for 10 minutes.

Two to Uncork:



Summer sippin' at its best. A unique red/white blend with juicy strawberry, raspberry and watermelon balanced with crisp acidity.



Your go-to BBQ wine. Flavors of blackberries and Italian plums in a beautifully balanced wine.

Sangria! Sangria!

Prep Time: 10 Minutes

Cook Time: 20 Minutes

Ready In: 30 Minutes

Servings: 6

"If you like a sweeter Sangria, use ginger ale in place of club soda."

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INGREDIENTS:

- ◆ 1/2 cup brandy
- ◆ 1/4 cup lemon juice
- ◆ 1/3 cup frozen lemonade concentrate
- ◆ 1/3 cup orange juice
- ◆ 1 (750 milliliter) bottle dry red wine
- ◆ 1/2 cup triple sec
- ◆ 1 lemon, sliced into rounds
- ◆ 1 orange, sliced into rounds
- ◆ 1 lime, sliced into rounds
- ◆ 1/4 cup white sugar (optional)
- ◆ 8 maraschino cherries
- ◆ 2 cups carbonated water (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

In a large pitcher or bowl, mix together the brandy, lemon juice, lemonade concentrate, orange juice, red wine, triple sec, and sugar. Float slices of lemon, orange and lime, and maraschino cherries in the mixture.



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Racing for the *Cure*

System Pavers is proud to support Susan G. Komen in their mission to save lives through investing and advocating for breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment. As a company-wide effort, the System Pavers team and their family members participated in the 21st Annual Race for the Cure under Seattle's iconic Space Needle. Some walked and some ran, but all joined together to celebrate the lives and victories of those affected by breast cancer. With September being Breast Cancer Awareness month, System

Pavers will come dressed in pink to join the many

others in the Susan G. Komen race at Tom

McCall Waterfront Park in Portland, OR, on

September 21st and again on September

28th at the Pepsi Center in Denver, CO.



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