



The Pineapple Welcome Picnic

Tips for a pineapple-themed picnic: demonstrated in the Spring Entertaining Style DVD

Keep it Simple...



Inviting family, friends, or neighbors over for a casual gathering can be easy and fun with the right elements. The trick is to keep it simple for both you and your guests. Easy finger foods, refreshing drinks, and a focal piece or a theme will give your guests a simple conversation starter. Paper plates and laminated serveware have gotten so good looking and versatile, they are the perfect thing for a casual gathering. Try adding weight and substance by using a wicker charger or even a terracotta plant saucer as a charger under the paper plates. There are endless ways to make your tabletop beautiful while still keeping it simple.

Make a statement...



No matter where you live, using pineapples as the theme for a casual gathering is a natural choice. Pineapples have a long history as the ultimate symbol of hospitality. The centerpiece, and statement piece, of a pineapple-themed table setting is a very easy sunflower arrangement in a cored pineapple. If, like me, you're not a professional flower arranger, follow these few easy tricks to make a flower arrangement that will be sure to WOW your guests. First, start with an eye-catching vase. Of all the things I have done flower arrangements in (and I like to try to use some odd things) a pineapple is always a crowd pleaser.

You can use a bulber or a knife to core the pineapple, add floral foam and flowers of your choice. I like to use sunflowers but I have also had great results using only a selection of grasses. Make sure you arrange your flowers (or grasses) at different heights and with different levels of depth for the most appealing look. Lastly, I like to prop the crown of the pineapple up against the arrangement when I finish—just for that little bit of added texture and visual interest.

Pack lots of color...



In addition to the pineapple arrangement, add other elements that will help to create a theme and set a relaxed, easy mood. Choose colors for your tablecloth that pop the fresh colors of spring and complement the yellows of your pineapple arrangement. A vibrant green (one of my favorite colors!!) is a good choice. I also like to bring in a third color, just to mix it up a bit. Try a smooth salmon or punchy orange. It will add just the right amount of pizzazz to really make your table bright and cheery.

Avoid thematic overload...



Following the lead of the bright yellow sunflowers, try adding a few more touches of yellow with, for example, lemonade (naturally!) and yellow napkins. Remember, using your food and beverage choices to reinforce your theme is crafty and subtle. My favorite glassware for this theme is our casual WILLIAMSBURG Pineapple Welcome glasses which nicely complement the theme without going overboard. Notice, I didn't choose to use pineapple napkins and a pineapple tablecloth. To me, that's too much.

Have fun!



Springtime entertaining is the perfect time to let out your whimsical side. Decorate with things that make you happy. Try something new or take a chance with a decoration that has intimidated you in the past. You might surprise yourself! Bright colors, fun textures, and a little bit of the unexpected is the perfect recipe for a springtime gathering of family and friends.