

SPECIAL BEAUTY ISSUE

THE
ULTIMATE

INSIDER'S GUIDE
TO GETTING
GORGEOUS

TOP
MAKEUP ARTISTS'
SECRET
WEAPONS

WHEN
ONE MAN
JUST ISN'T
ENOUGH

GET THE LOOK!

EXTREME LUXURY
TO BAREFOOT COUTURE
AND COLD-WEATHER CHIC

GALLIANO'S
MAGIC TRICK

IS THE PILL STILL SAFE?

POLITICS'
NEW GOLDEN COUPLE

GISELE
BÜNDCHEN
ON TOP



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LIVING

In the Drink

DOES THE IDEA OF THROWING A COCKTAIL PARTY GIVE YOU THAT SINKING FEELING? ENTERTAINING EXPERTS ALEXANDRA AND ELIOT ANGLE SHOW YOU HOW TO KEEP THE EVENT—AND YOUR SPIRITS—AFLOAT

Take a SoHo loft, add a round of Tikitinis, a British guest DJ, and a Hilton sister. Shake and serve for a hot soiree? Hardly. According to Alexandra and Eliot Angle, the savvy (and married) proprietors of L.A. catering boîte Aqua Vitae and authors of *Cocktail Parties With a Twist* (Stewart, Tabori & Chang), there's no right way to

throw a cocktail party. That's good news for those who won't spring for a caterer, can't remember a name, or worry that their apartment wouldn't exactly make the pages of *ELLE Decor*. "We're trying to encourage people to >

Pool Party
Key Lime Collapses
with bamboo skewer
sticks (see next
page for recipe)
and Thai shrimp
kebabs trump a
warm key and hot
dogs any day.





do what they do best, and to downplay their weaknesses," says Alexandra, thirty-five, who met Eliot, thirty-two, at a

Halloween party ten years ago (he was Gilligan, she was a vamp). That can mean dressing up take-out food with sprinkled herbs, recruiting your most outgoing friend to help make introductions, or setting up a bar on the windowsill of your tiny apartment.

To help demystify the art of party-throwing, the *Angels* show how any occasion—not just birthdays or showers—can be a cause for celebration, with fourteen different party ideas, including a moving-day lunch (where you reward friends for hauling your CD collection with citrus shandys and finger food), a croquet social with mint juleps, an all-night blowout (complete with breakfast and hangover remedy), and a garage party (strategically placed pillows, sheets, and lanterns transform even the dingiest space into a chic Moroccan souk).

Most important, maintain the authors, is *your* happiness. "We've all experienced a party that looks absolutely gorgeous, but the host is stressed out, so no one really has fun," Alexandra says. "And then you go to a party that may



Late-Night Blowout

Will your party be short and sweet or big and bold? The day of the week will set the tone: Friday night, when guests are tired, is best for a low-key dinner. If you want them to linger, plan the party for Saturday.

look like a mess, but the host—and the guests—are having the time of their lives." That's most readily achieved through good planning and creative shortcuts. "The one thing we want to get across," Eliot continues, "is that you can serve hot dogs and still have your party look stylish and beautiful."

—LEIGH BELZ



Small Apartment Party

Some may call it a closet, but you should regard it as "intimate space." To find more room, use a desk or windowsill as a bar, add pillows to make a bed or three-sided couch, push stray furniture against a wall, and serve neat, bite-sized foods like canapes or corn crisps, above.



Shake It Up

Measure ingredients into shaker, add ice, shake, strain, garnish, and serve!



Cocktail Crib Sheet

Don't know a shaker from a Singapore sling? You can prepare for even the most obscure of libations by stocking a few core items:

- The big five liquors (vodka, gin, tequila, whiskey, and rum)
 - White wine and vermouth
 - Simple syrup (sugar water) or grenadine
 - Citrus juices (lime, lemon, and orange)
 - Bitters (Campari, orange)
 - Garnishes (olives, cherries)
- If you don't want to play bar-

tender, conceal your mixer in a pitcher. For the Key Lime Collins, mix 8 oz. Key lime juice, 8 tsp. simple syrup, top pitcher with soda water (this will serve eight) and place it on the bar alongside the bottle of base alcohol (in this case, gin) and a card with the drink-mixing instructions.