

# marcia selden

CATERING & EVENT PLANNING

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## Summer Entertaining with Marcia Selden Catering

Summer's in full swing, and it's time for outdoor entertaining! The nights are warm, people are more relaxed, and some of the freshest produce of the year is here.

The kitchens at Marcia Selden Catering are buzzing throughout the summer months with all kinds of parties, from elegant weddings to casual backyard BBQ's and boat parties.

We wanted to share our top 3 tips for throwing the best summer party of the season.

### 1. Keep it Cool

"Make ahead" foods such as grilled meats, shellfish and veggies are delicious served cold. Prepare fun salads and be sure to add texture and crunch; try wheatberries, quinoa, faro, toasted nuts, and summer fruit. Top with grilled shrimp, chicken or a spicy lamb kebab and you have a fabulous summer feast. For dessert, make a peach berry cobbler which can be made in advance and served at room temperature. Or why not try some creative homemade popsicles such as blackberry lavender, pineapple basil, mango guava, even watermelon ginger?

### 2. Set Up a Drink Station

Get creative, set up the bar on a potting bench, side table or even a couple of wine barrels with an old piece of marble from a tag sale. Find fun containers such as Ball jars for something a little different. Make sure you have plenty of ice. Generally we figure 1-2 pound of ice per person, plus enough to keep your beverages cold. Ice melts quickly in hot weather, so store the extras in a large separate cooler if possible.

### 3. Create an Inviting Outdoor Space

Think about your outdoor space as an extension of your home. Use cut flowers from the garden, think of a summery color scheme and add in lots of great décor. For a daytime party, be mindful of where the sun will be and offer shady areas. Have plenty of seating, comfy pillows, a great playlist, lots of candles, even a fun outdoor rug so your guests will feel right at home. Use colorful lightweight melamine or eco-friendly materials such as bamboo for a relaxed summer feel.