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How to be the Life of the Party

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COAST THROUGH THIS SEASON'S
SOCIAL CALENDAR WITH OUR ESSENTIAL
TIPS FOR PROPER GUEST BEHAVIOR.

IT'S HAPPENED TO EVERYONE.

You're at a party, happily scarfing down canapés, mingling within your comfort zone, when suddenly you commit some sort of horrific faux pas. Maybe you ask the hostess when she's expecting, only to realize her dress is just a little snug around the waistline. Perhaps you look down and see a trail of toilet paper stuck to your heel and look up to a roomful of smirks. Or, heaven forbid, the Champagne goes to your head, and you fire off a barrage of off-color, ethnic jokes before taking a header into a potted palm. It can get ugly real fast. Our expert advice will help walk you through the mine field of holiday party-going by covering everything from hostess gifts to remembering names to dressing the part. **WITH A LITTLE PREPARATION, YOU'RE SURE TO BE A HIT AT YOUR NEXT PARTY—AND, BEST OF ALL, YOU'LL BE INVITED BACK.**

Make a Grand Entrance

Not everyone can make a big splash like **John Allen**, a local James Bond impersonator who has been hired to arrive at parties by helicopter and speedboat, dressed in a white dinner coat and accompanied by 007's iconic theme music. Allen once showed up for a soirée at Mar-a-Lago in an Aston Martin, fought off a thug, threw him in the pool and saved the hostess from being kidnapped. And he hadn't even eaten dinner yet.

"Anyone can make a grand entrance," says Allen. "Walk in the door with confidence, and sell yourself. It's all about charisma and being in the moment. If you're naturally shy, practice at home first. You can do it."

Here are Allen's sure-fire tips for making a memorable first impression:

- Show up a little late to be sure there's a roomful of guests to impress.
- Dress better than anyone at the party.
- Be immaculately groomed. (Don't forget to trim the ear hair, guys.)
- Spend the day before the party being pampered at a spa.
- Be sincere and mean it when you greet the host, hostess and guests.
- Maintain your poise, no matter what.



Common Opening Lines to Avoid

"What do you do for a living?" Consider the economy, stupid: Unemployment is soaring. The person you ask may have just been fired, and you might have to listen to the tale of woe.

ALTERNATIVE: "You look like someone with a lot of interests."

"What brings you here?" It's subtly challenging and sounds a bit Spanish Inquisition-ish, like you're asking them to validate their presence or prove that they were invited.

ALTERNATIVE: "Have you known our hosts long?"