



ENTERTAINING

Get Your Fourth of July Fired Up with These Party Tips

The Hamptons' glamorous set share their secrets for a successful outdoor fete in Annie Falk's book

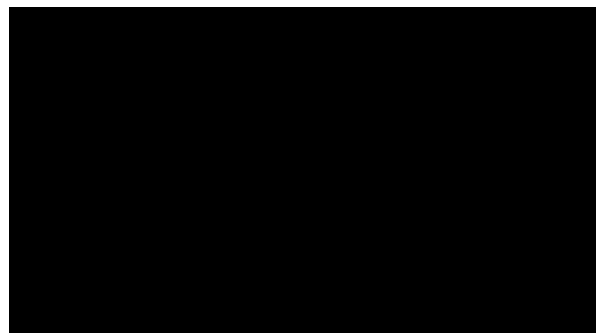
By Tisha Leung

Photography by Jerry Rabinowitz

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When it comes to the Fourth of July, throwing an unforgettable outdoor shindig takes inspiration, planning, and organization. In her book *Hamptons Entertaining: Creating Occasions to Remember* (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, \$45), Annie Falk shares recipes and anecdotes from residents of the tony Long Island enclave and offers plenty of inspiration for summer get-togethers, whether a dinner party or a picnic on the beach. Giving us a peek over their privet hedges, Falk breaks down the essentials for the casual yet elegant soirées that the

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area is noted for. “What makes these gatherings so memorable is the key to success for any event—thoughtfulness and attention to detail,” Falk writes. Filled with everything from decorating ideas to tips for keeping spirited conversations going, the book suggests a number of small personal gestures, such as serving a childhood s’mores recipe or setting the table with garden-picked flowers, that will make an event unforgettable. Discover some of Falk’s stylish solutions and you’ll see that you don’t need to be a resident of the Hamptons to throw an outdoor celebration like one.



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Nature is an ideal theme for outdoor party decor. Seashells, coral, and succulents were front and center at a clambake-style beach party planned by Annie and Michael Falk. Organic, seasonal, and locally produced ingredients—mainstays in the Falks’ lifestyle—were the highlights of the menu. “When hosting a clambake, be mindful of shellfish allergies and have other options available,” suggests Annie Falk.

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Relaxing on the ocean sand is a perfect way to cap off the festivities. Consider the needs of your guests ahead of time, and it will not go unnoticed. “When your guests leave the beach and it’s time to put their shoes back on, they will surely appreciate a tub of water, fresh towels, and a bench to sit on,” says Falk.



People mixing and mingling is a surefire way to make an event lively. “Keep things moving. Starting in one part of the house and moving to another keeps things fresh and inspires conversation,” says Lisa Cohen, who planned a dinner party with her husband, Jimmy, on the dunes outside their home.



An outdoor gathering calls for an informal table. Here, Cohen complemented blue and white place settings with a bouquet of wildflowers. “Entertaining on the dunes is casual by nature,” she says.





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Consider adding a personal touch such as using handed-down family recipes. “I like to share with my guests the tastes I remember from growing up in Panama,” says Margarita Allinson, who held a dinner party with her husband, Edward, on their back porch. “My sister handed me some recipes from a very old cookbook written by my grandmother’s sister,” she says.



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Keep the stress at bay by planning ahead. To save time, set your table the night before and place the flowers just before the guests arrive. “If you put hydrangeas in the refrigerator overnight, they stay totally crisp and open the next day,” says Allinson.

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