



# 12 Months of Entertaining

A Guide

LISA LOU



## Step One: Choose A Theme

Choosing a theme is the first step in planning a party. This may seem like an unnecessary statement, but many people do not choose themes for their gatherings. I feel this is essential to tie everything together, even when your event does not revolve around a holiday. Maybe you are hosting a spring brunch and the best flowers this time of year have shades of blue and yellow. If so, then let the colors of blue and yellow be your theme. A theme does not need to be elaborate, or even scream “theme!”

**DO** choose one common thread that ties your party together, though, from the invitations all the way to the party favors.

Below I have listed a year’s worth of party ideas, month by month, that will get your mind moving in the right direction. Some are creative, and others are the traditional monthly celebrations. A gathering does not always need to be unique. Often the tried and true celebrations are what your friends and family really desire.

---

## January: Football Party



January is when the college playoff games are held. People are usually still recovering from the holidays, so this is a fun, casual and relaxing party to host during January.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Football Party.

---

## February: Game Night Or Casino Party



This month seems like a “blah” month for many people. It is the depth of winter for much of the country, we are tired of staring at grey skies, it’s cold and we feel stuck inside. This is a great time to host a Game Night or Casino Party!

Game Night can be hosted on a tight budget. A casino party, if you hire a company, will be a more expensive affair. Both are great fun, and it really depends on your crowd. There is nothing like pulling people out of the doldrums than laughter, friends and the sound of dice.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Family Game Night.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Casino Party.

---

## March: Chef Party



Spring is around the corner, and it's a great time to learn new recipes as we begin to see warmer temperatures. If you enjoy cooking, you can be the celebrity chef and save some money. Or, enlist a friend to help.

If you feel like splurging, you can hire a chef from a top-rated restaurant OR find an aspiring chef that is just starting out. If you have a culinary school in your area, this is a great place to search for someone with a little experience, and it won't break the bank.

You might choose a more formal evening with couples, or you can go the casual route and have the chef demonstrate his or her favorite BBQ techniques. Invite just the girls over and focus on healthy recipes to slim down for that coming beach weather, or maybe you need fresh ideas for children's meals. There are many options when you host a chef inspired evening.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Chef Party.

---

## April: Movie Night



Spring Fever has taken hold, and a great way to celebrate is with a classic movie...outside! This is fun for an adults-only night or make it more child friendly and bring the entire gang.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Movie Night.

---

## **May: Pool Party**



This month is full of opportunities from graduation parties, bridal showers, end of school events and of course, Memorial Day. When I was pregnant, my son was due on Memorial Day (he was born the next day, which was May 30th). While he was growing up, I always had to juggle his birthday party with Memorial Weekend.

May is a great month to have a pool party. Children are eager for that first splash in the water, and even the adults are excited to dip their toes in the cool blue. In most parts of the country, May weather is nice but not too hot. In addition to patriotic colors, give your party a military theme. After all this IS why we have Memorial Day...to honor our soldiers who have given their all.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Pool Party.

---

## **June: Bridal Brunch**



June is still one of the most popular months for weddings. It is a great time to host a brunch for those in your circle of friends who have upcoming weddings.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Bridal Brunch.

---

## July: Independence Day



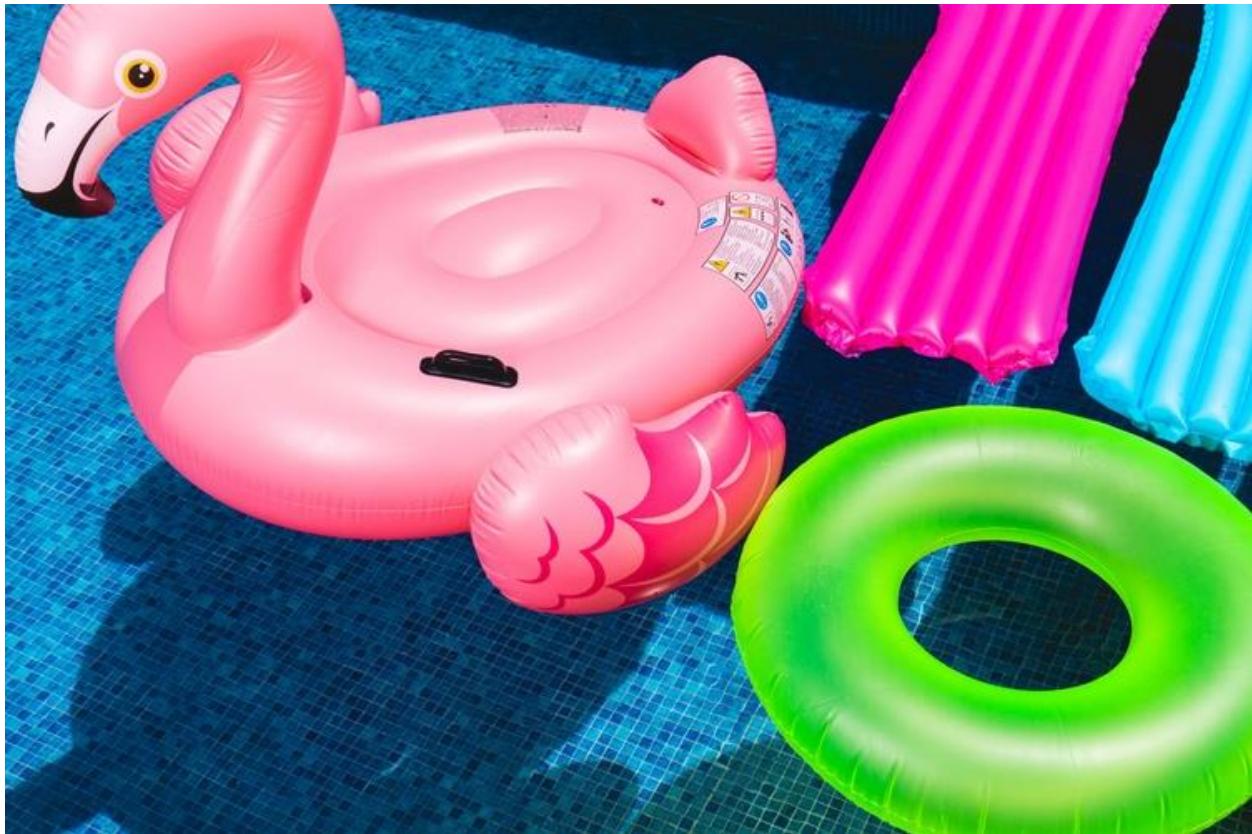
This holiday never gets old when it comes to throwing a party. You can do something like the Memorial Day party mentioned in May, but this theme should be all about the red, white and blue. Most people will go casual at an event like this, but if you are entertaining an older crowd that might struggle with the heat, having a comfortable sit-down dinner inside is always a good choice.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Independence Day BBQ.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Indoor Sit Down Dinner.

---

## August: Back To School



Many families leave town in July or early August before it's time to ramp up for a new school year. August can be a difficult month to entertain, because so many people are away. Personally, I stay away from August entertaining (I'm usually away, too!). BUT, if you have school age children, this is a good time to throw a back-to-school party. If you do this, I would suggest it be the weekend before school begins. Many families vacation right up until the day before classes start, and you don't want your turn out to be small.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Back to School Party.

---

## September: Wine Tasting



The children are back in school and cooler weather is around the corner. This is a perfect month for more adult entertaining. Host a wine tasting! An elegant evening with a group of close friends is just the right way to gear up for the festive fall season.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Wine Tasting party.

---

## October: Murder Mystery Dinner



October is my favorite month of the year. In the south, where I live, we are just beginning to have a break in our hot weather. For me, October represents “what is coming.” There is so much you can do in this month from pizza and a slumber party to a progressive dinner which allows you to enjoy the fall foliage as you go from house to house. A favorite party of mine is a Murder Mystery dinner. It fits with the Halloween theme and adults love it! There are also Murder Mystery dinners you can purchase for teens.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Murder Mystery Dinner.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Halloween Party.

---

## November: Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving is usually the gathering of choice for this month, and I agree. Your efforts should go into extending hospitality to family and friends, but also to those around you that do not have loved ones nearby. Really turn your thoughts outward during this month. Hosting a casual “Friendsgiving” is a great way to connect with a group of friends that might not be able to go home for the holiday.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Thanksgiving Party.

---

## December: Leftover New Year's Eve



Christmas brings endless party opportunities. There are too many to mention in this post, so let me tell you about a different party we hosted for many years. It was called a Leftover New Year's Eve! It was great fun and works beautifully for families with young children who cannot get babysitters.

[Spotify Playlist](#) for Leftover New Year's Eve Party.

---