



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrate Tinseltown, Hollywood-style, with California cuisine

Lesle Gibson, founder of three L.A. celebrity hotspots, dishes on how to plan an A-list party in time for Hollywood's awards season

JANUARY 21, 2009, TORONTO, ON — Whether it's on the red carpet or based out of the comfort of a living room, hosting a Hollywood celebration party should always be about the glitz and glamour of Tinseltown. And with two of Hollywood's most glamorous events, the Grammy Awards and the Oscars, just around the corner, what better way to celebrate this year's contenders than with an authentic California party that's sure to be the talk of the town!

"Entertaining like the stars may seem overwhelming, but with the right planning and food, a Hollywood-themed party can be elegant and surprisingly simple," says Lesle Gibson, a Toronto-based restaurateur and founder of three L.A. hot spots (who's thrown parties for A-list celebs in Hollywood). "By including authentic elements such as music from a movie soundtrack, red carpet and Californian cuisine, you are setting the tone and creating excitement for your guests."

From staging a themed party to making authentic menu selections, Gibson offers her Oscar-worthy tips on hosting a Hollywood celebration party that will make entertaining like the stars a cinch!

Lights, Camera, Action — Use themed invitations such as a film reel box with the invite inside or a movie clapboard with the invitation printed on it to set the stage for the party. Pressed for time? E-mail invites are practical and there are invitation websites available that offer creative design templates.

Winning Décor — Choose elegant colours such as silver, white and gold for an evening of casual glamour. A red carpet-inspired table runner can create an air of authenticity. Use silver napkins with white ceramic plates and use gold glass charms to mark everyone's glasses.

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Dine like the Stars — Channel the L.A. vibe with a California-inspired menu. Consider pairing delectable bite-sized recipes such as California Ripe Olive Skewers or Wild Rice, Grapes, and Blue Cheese Stuffed Port Poached Pears with Californian wines for a truly authentic menu.

And the Award goes to... — Add an extra level of pizzazz and host an awards ceremony for your guests by recognizing the night's best dressed, best impressions and celebrity look-alikes. Award guests with faux Oscars and encourage them to make acceptance speeches during the commercial breaks.

"It's the little details that make all the difference," says Lesle. "Once everything comes together — lighting, music, centerpieces, tableware, tasty eats — your Hollywood celebration party will be a red carpet event to remember."

Planning a Hollywood celebration not only creates fun among friends and family it also allows for recipe experimentation with fresh and tasty food from California. For more information, visit <http://www.californiagrown.org/canada/> for California-inspired recipes.

About The Buy California Marketing Agreement:

The Buy California Marketing Agreement is a joint effort of agricultural industry groups representing the products of California's farms, ranches, forests and fisheries. Working as an advisory board to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, BCMA brings together industry and government resources to increase the awareness, consumption and value of California agricultural products.

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