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Lauren's PARTY SECRETS!

Now a lifestyle guru (in addition to being an author and fashion designer!), **Lauren Conrad** dishes on entertaining at home with style! Check out her website, Laurenconrad.com, for more ideas

* Be creative with invites!

"I'm a big fan of Paperless Post. They have beautiful designs and it's eco-friendly. Try sending invites in the form of a poem or a little rhyme!"



pick from tons of invites at paperlesspost.com

* Look good in the kitchen!

"Incorporate a cute apron into your look. I collect them and usually have one on as guests arrive."



• **Jessie Steele**
"Black with White Deco Dot Apron" in cotton, \$32.95; jessiesteele.com



* Set the mood!

"Candles create a warm, inviting ambience. When I have people over, I litter the house with them! I like to place tea lights inside of mason jars. You can even hang them with twine outdoors."

3 More Tips!

- **Move furniture!** "It creates more standing room—and a dance floor! Your guests may decide to bust out their version of *Dirty Dancing*."
- **Serve light drinks!** "Red wine is risky—someone will spill. I stick to non-staining drinks for a large gathering."
- **Invite the neighbors!** "It's the polite thing to do, and you'll decrease the likelihood of noise complaints."

“There's no such thing as a perfect party. Drinks will spill, things will break. Just have fun!”

In a Farah Khan dress.

STYLING: BRIAN HENRI (STYLIST) SHARON ANDERSON; MANEED KOH (STYLIST) SYLVIA NAGY; COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: STEVEN LAMTON/PLUMAGIS; KATE KUNZ/CORBIS; GETTY IMAGES



"candy in bowls or teacups doubles as food and decorations!"

*** Go back to basics!**

"I love taking the best parts of childhood parties and incorporating them into a grown-up event—party hats, cupcakes, balloons and pretty candy!"



*** Have an activity!**

"I still enjoy the same party activities I did when I was young—like making S'mores and decorating pumpkins. They're cozy fall and winter ideas."

*** Serve fun drinks!**

"I stock up on these mini cans of bubbly and keep them over ice for guests to enjoy. They come with little straws—I can't get over how adorable they look and how good they taste!"



• **Francis Ford Coppola Winery** "Sofia Mini Blanc de Blancs" sparkling wine, \$20 for a set of four cans; store.franciscoppolawinery.com

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*in a nationwide survey; among those with a preference.

Lauren's fave hostess piece from her own line!



* Dress like a hostess!

"Wear something bold to stand out! I lay out my outfit and get dressed right before everyone arrives. That way I don't make a mess of myself while preparing food and drinks."

• **Paper Crown** "Twain" silk chiffon maxiskirt, \$365; shopplanetblue.com



Posing for a photo with friend Lo Bosworth.

StyleWatch Living

* Make memories!

"I like having a photo booth at my parties. To make your own, set up a digital camera on a tripod and face it toward a blank wall. Or drape a festive sheet as a backdrop!"

Her Music Playlist!

"My friend **DJ Jilly Hendrix** always helps me make a party mix! Her advice: Balance dance music with songs everyone knows the lyrics to." Here, Jilly's picks...

- **Barcelona (Lifelike Remix)** The Plasticines
- **Houdini** Foster the People
- **Off the Wall** Michael Jackson
- **Set Fire to the Rain** Adele
- **The Night Out** Martin Solveig
- **Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.)** Katy Perry
- **Bounce** Calvin Harris feat. Kelis
- **Hang with Me** Robyn

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