



Majestic Party Planner

Planning a party?

Wondering whether to order red or white wine,
or how much Champagne you need for a toast?

Daunted by the thought of all the planning?

At Majestic, we have been helping our customers plan successful parties for years. The Majestic Party Planner has been created to ensure that you have all the ingredients you need to throw a fantastic party, whether it be a casual drinks party, a formal black tie dinner or a full scale wedding.



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First things first

You need to decide the number of guests you are inviting and your budget. From here you can decide the venue. If you are holding it at home, consider whether you will need to hire additional seating or tables or even a marquee? If hiring a venue, consider taking your own wines and paying 'corkage' as a great way of improving on 'house wines' as well as saving money.

Always remember to set the date early, especially in the busy 'party seasons' during summer and at Christmas. It's a good idea to send a 'save the date' email, text or card as soon as you have finalised the date. This can then be followed by a more formal invitation with all the details of the event. **Make sure you check the date for any clashes** – don't hold your party on the same day as any 'must see' sporting events.

Next you need to choose your menu. Whether you are doing canapés or a sit down dinner, the drinks should compliment the food you are serving. Once you have chosen your menu, visit your local Majestic where we will recommend a range of wines to taste. Don't forget to cater for any special dietary requirements – Majestic stock a great range of vegetarian wines.

You can save time and effort by bringing in a caterer but make sure you shop around. If you're cooking at home, consider online food suppliers for an easy, cost effective alternative to trudging around the supermarket. Also consider whether you are going to need any help serving drinks or food on the day. There is no point having a party if you are too busy to speak to your guests!



Majestic's top tips

- Allow at least 1/2 bottle wine per person and then add a margin for safety.
- Remember to offer a good range of soft drinks for non-drinkers and drivers.
- Make sure you don't run out of glasses. Our experienced staff will be happy to advise you on how many you'll need.
- Don't forget to buy ice and plan how to keep your drinks chilled.
- If you're using ice buckets, remember to add water as this will speed up the chilling process.
- When hiring venues, consider corkage as a cost effective alternative to their house wine prices.
- Browse the Majestic range online at majestic.co.uk

Majestic party drinks guide

At each Majestic store we have knowledgeable, experienced staff keen to advise you on the drinks you'll need for your party. Every member of staff is required to sit the industry recognised Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET) Advanced Certificate exam, so they really know their Bordeaux from their Barolo. From food and wine matching to providing free glass hire, visiting Majestic a few weeks before the party is an essential step in your party planning.

Champagne or sparkling wine

- Whether it's a special occasion, or just to get your celebrations started with a swing, you can't beat a glass of fizz. **Majestic's great offers often include up to 50% off when you buy 2 bottles of the same Champagne or Sparkling wine.**
- A standard sized bottle of Champagne or sparkling wine (75cl) will provide 6 flutes. For a wedding reception or toast you will need to allow around 2-3 glasses per person.
So for 100 guests you will need 100 x 2 glasses = 200 flutes, which means you will need 34 bottles.
- It's always difficult to know how much alcohol you'll need for an event, so to put your mind at ease **Majestic offer a sale or return option – don't panic, you won't be stuck with any excess.**
- Consider using a big name Champagne for toasts and a more cost-effective but great tasting Champagne or sparkling wine for further drinking.

Wine

- As a general rule, allow half a bottle per person and then add an additional margin for safety.
- Preferences for red and white wines are usually quite evenly split, apart from in the summer when white wine may be in more demand. **A standard bottle of wine (75cl) will fill 5 medium wine glasses, so 1 case of wine (12 bottles) = 60 glasses.** Consider rosé wine as a popular and refreshing option – Majestic have rosés from every part of the wine-making world!



Remember!

Majestic's instore minimum purchase is 6 bottles of wine, champagne or spirits, any mix. 12 bottles is still our minimum purchase online and for free delivery.

- Where available, it's often worth considering the 'corkage' option when hiring a venue for a wedding or similar function – with Majestic's great range and prices you can often improve on the 'house wines' and save money. **Wines start at just £3.99 – including the fantastic value La Serrano Tempranillo 2008 and La Serrana Macabeo 2008 from Spain.**
- Make sure you are ordering the right thing by tasting the wines before you order. **At each Majestic store we have an extensive range of wines open to taste all day, every day and will often open specific bottles on request.** Also look out for our regular free in-store tasting events, a great way to explore a particular region or country and find the right wine for your event.



Mulled Wine

- In the colder months, you may want to serve your guests a lovely warming glass of mulled wine to stave off the chilling bite of winter. It's a classic wine-based drink that can be easily made ahead of time.
- Any red wine will do, but you don't have to spend much money – after all you're going to alter the taste considerably. Try a wine from Portugal, Spain, Italy, Chile or the South of France. You want a wine that is full in flavour, with lots of rustic charm.
- Making mulled wine couldn't be easier with Majestic's Gourmet Mulling Syrup. There is no need to add additional fruit or spices – just mix 1 part syrup to 8 parts red wine and heat. Remember not to boil or you'll burn off the alcohol!

Beer and lager

- **At Majestic we have a great range of lagers and bitters available by the case.** Beer quantities depend largely on knowing your audience's likely preference for lager, bitter or ale but as a rule it is always best to 'over-order'. Majestic will refund any unsplit cases of beer or lager that you have left over*.
- A case of lager generally comprises 24 x 33cl bottles (just over half a pint per bottle), although popular brands may come in 27.5cl or 30cl sizes.
- Majestic is the place to buy case packs of bottled ales and bitters – a case generally comprises 12 x 50cl bottles (just under a pint per bottle).



Soft drinks and water

- **Soft drinks are often an after-thought, but are extremely important** as mixers as well as drinks for the drivers and non-drinkers. Coke, sparkling water, lemonade, orange juice and tonic water are must-haves. Consider other juices such as cranberry or pineapple as fruity alternatives.
- A 2 litre bottle of soft drink will provide approximately 7–9 servings. A 50cl bottle of tonic will adequately make three spirit based mixer drinks.
- For all-day functions like weddings, you should also **allow at least half a litre of water per person**. Waters in glass bottles are available for more formal parties and events.

Glasses

- You will always get through more glasses than you expect! The Majestic **Free Glass Loan Service** includes wine glasses, flutes, hi-ball tumblers and pint glasses. These are available on a £1-a-glass deposit basis – refunded in full on return.[†] All glasses must be returned clean and intact.

Ice, chiller bins and ice buckets

- Don't forget to plan how you are going to keep your drinks chilled. The Majestic chiller bins hold 18–24 bottles of wine or Champagne or 2–3 cases of lager when filled with ice and water. Filled with 3–4 bags of ice, drinks will be chilled in 30–45 minutes and will be kept cold for several hours, especially if kept in the shade. **Chiller Bins can be hired, again on a refundable deposit basis, for £15.**
- Alternatively try our table-top ice buckets, which are available to purchase or hire for £10 – these hold 4–5 bottles of Champagne, wine or water along with 1 bag of ice.



Delivery

- Majestic can help take the worry out of the day with our **Free Home Delivery service**[•]. We guarantee delivery within 7 days, although it's usually much quicker than that.
- If you're ordering for a large party it may be worth organising delivery a few days in advance to allow for late additions to the guest list – but be aware that if you're ordering ice you'll need somewhere to store it until the big day.



Sale-or-return

- It's always difficult to know how much drink to provide at a party and you certainly don't want to run out! Our store staff will be happy to offer advice on the amount you'll need but to put your mind at ease, Majestic also provide a sale-or-return policy.
- Sale-or-return should be arranged with the Store Manager when placing your order. All we ask is that everything comes back in saleable condition – screwcap bottles are still sealed, no labels peeled off by chilling and beer still in full cases.
- As our delivery service is free we cannot offer to collect any leftovers, so you will be responsible for returning them to your local store. Enquiries about sale-or-return for very large orders should be made to your local store.



Enjoy your party safely

- If you're hosting just a drinks party then it's a good idea to serve some canapés or snacks as this slows down the effects of alcohol. Make sure the snacks aren't too salty though as this will make your guests drink more!
- Make sure you have plenty of water and soft drinks on hand. It's a good idea to alternate soft drinks or water with every alcoholic drink. Over the course of an evening, you and your guests can consume more than you realise.
- If you're serving spirits then use shot measures – 'home measures' can lead to you serving up drinks much stronger than you intended.
- It's important that your guests enjoy themselves and that they get home safely. It's always helpful to have information about reliable local taxi services available to encourage your guests not to drink and drive!

DRINKAWARE.CO.UK

† In some cases glass cleaning may incur a charge. Service available to customers purchasing wines, spirits and beers in Majestic stores only.

• FREE 12 bottle mixed case delivery applies anywhere in mainland UK. We're sorry that this excludes the Scottish Islands, Isles of Scilly, Isle of Man and Northern Ireland. We are sorry that we do not deliver to the Channel Islands or destinations outside the UK.

* Sale-or-return is offered at the discretion of local store managers, and some restrictions may apply depending on local circumstances. Unfortunately we cannot offer sale-or-return in areas where we deliver by Mail Order



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