

## *How to Host Your Own Wine Tasting - Checklist*

### *Planning:*

- Choose a style of wine or a region that you wish to profile
- Pick a theme: stand-up and mingle or sit-down and focused
- How many people will attend? \_\_\_\_
- 1 standard bottle will serve 12 people a 2-ounce pour
- Food should always be available when alcohol is served (at the very least, a sliced baguette)
- Consider the legalities and liquor laws in your area

### *Preparation:*

- Select 4 to 6 different labels to represent your theme
- Consider food pairings to compliment your wine choices
- If ranking the wines, provide grading sheets and pencils
- Select your stemware (something large enough to swirl but not too cumbersome to handle). 7 oz./200ml ISO tasting glasses cost ~ \$4 each
- Consider separate glasses for each wine or one glass with a rinse station
- Provide wine charms if using one glass per person or use a paint marker to write each person's name on the base of their glass.
- Labelled placemats will help keep multiple glasses organized
- Spittoons should be made available as an option
- Whites and sparkling wines may require ice buckets for chilling
- Provide drinking water in a separate glass or bottle
- Have a plan if someone has too much to drink i.e. a key bowl, taxi phone#

### *Presentation:*

- Know your material
  - As your guests arrive, consider serving a glass of sparkling wine. The bubbly will give them something to discuss while you fine tune last minute details.
  - Consider your crowd and set the tone: fun/informative or wine snobbery (there is a place for each)
  - Reinforce the need to consume responsibly before you begin
  - Explain the basics (not everyone will be comfortable with the concept)
  - Taste in order of dry to sweet and light to full bodied
  - Consider the use of props such as decanters, various corkscrews, maps and literature related to your subject
  - When finished, allow some social time between the last wine sample and your guests' departure by offering tea, coffee, and a selection of baked goods.
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- Enjoy yourself and have some fun with it!